


# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning." -- Benjamin Franklin



Interview : Jean Claude de L'Estrac

## «Il n'y a presque plus de contre-pouvoirs»

*'Le PM verrouille totalement le système. Cette tentation a été celle de tous les Premiers ministres, mais personne n'a été aussi loin que Pravind Jugnauth'*

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## «There is no reason to believe that the judiciary in Mauritius is not independent»

By LEX ☞ See Page 6



## Another Hit to Consumers Purse

Yet another hit to consumers purse with the announcement of the fourth increase of petrol and diesel prices within the last five months: today Mauritians are having to fork out Rs74.10 for petrol and Rs 54.55, representing an increase of 10% over the last price increase effective as from April 19, or 40% higher than the prices that prevailed last February. The cascading adverse effects of these never-ending price increases of essential goods and other commodities coupled with those of petrol and diesel on the purchasing power of all Mauritians generally, in particular the already squeezed low-income groups and middle class cannot go unattended by the government and it is expected to do an immediate job – address the population's concern with the rising cost of living.

What is regrettable is that the country is today paying the price for past rash decisions which have resulted in the depletion of the STC's Price Stabilisation Account. First, the unjustified breach of the Betamax contract by the SAJ-led government resulting in the decision of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre in favour of Betamax instructing the payment of damages amounting to between \$115-125 million with interest, decision confirmed by the Privy Council. Another of the same nature was the non-renewal of the contract negotiated by the LP-PMSD government with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, India, for the supply of our oil products at fixed prices. It will be recalled that the exclusivity contract entered upon since 2006 contained guarantees of supply independently of any disruptions on the world market. The resulting security and quality of petroleum products supplied by Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited were such that the contract was renewed on a three-year basis in July 2007, 2010 and 2013.

Following two years of pandemic-induced hardships, now compounded by the impacts of the Ukraine conflict on the global economy, the government should come out and tell the population what it plans to do for tackling mounting fuel, food and other prices rather than wait for the forthcoming budget to indulge in some false political bravado, as it is widely suspected, with announcements of symbolic measures to alleviate the hardships of Mauritian households. Telling the people that most of what's happening is beyond the government's control is not going to be convincing since it is public knowledge that almost 50% on the price of petrol and diesel go towards excise duty and other taxes as well as to the Covid and other solidarity funds.

Handing out something tangible is imperative today: a cost-of-living package, including a one-off cash payment for low- and middle-income earners, as has been suggested by numerous economists, or waiver over a period of time to be determined on utilities bills and extended public transport subsidies and fuel excise and other tax cuts. The sooner the better.

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## The Conversation

# Inflation Public Enemy Number 1

*Inflation is bad for any country's economy. It also hurts the wealth and financial well-being of individuals and households*

**I**nflation is a process of sustained increases in the general price level over a period of time, typically 12 months.

Inflation can be calculated for a country, for specific regions in a country and for different income and demographic groups, for instance pensioners.

These different calculations are important because the spending patterns of regions and groups differ. That means that their rates of inflation also differ. It is therefore important for each household to have a clear understanding of its own inflation rate.

A number of countries allow for the development of this improved understanding. For example, South African households can use an Internet tool such as the personal inflation calculator of Statistics SA. A personal inflation calculator, based on the spending patterns of household, is also available for the Euro area, Canada and New Zealand.

The phrase describing inflation as 'enemy number one' is borrowed from the research done by South African businessman Dr Anton Rupert on the world-wide inflation problem suffered in the 1970s.

He described inflation this way due to its distortive impact on the economies of countries and the wealth and financial well-being of households.

But the word inflation has a much earlier origin. Its first use was in the US between 1830 and 1860, when the US dollar started losing value.

In short, people experience inflation as sustained price increases. Prices continue to increase and the same amount of money buys less goods and services over time.

### Why is it so bad?

Inflation is bad because people on fixed incomes such as pensioners get poorer over time. The buying power of their money is eroded.

A further problem is that borrowers enjoy an advantage over savers. With high inflation, the capital value of savings is eroded, while the real burden of borrowing declines. It becomes easier to repay debt. Although interest rates increase with higher inflation, the real value of the amount borrowed that has to be repaid, declines as percentage of salaries that are adjusted for inflation.

Governments are the largest borrowers in the world. They are therefore the major beneficiaries of inflation, as the real value of their debt is eroded at the expense of the taxpayers in their countries. Tax collections increase with higher inflation and government debt becomes a smaller percentage of



Pic - assets.rappler.com

government revenue raised from taxes.

### Who manages inflation and what instruments can they use?

Central banks have responsibility for containing inflation. They use the level of interest rates to contain inflation.

This responsibility for containing inflation is most noticeable in countries that use inflation targeting. In these countries, central banks adjust interest rates in line with the rate of inflation and its expected future level to contain it to the target range.

To contain inflation, central banks must keep interest rates above the inflation. This difference between the rate of inflation and the interest rate is called the real rate. When the rate of inflation accelerates and is expected to continue this trend, the central bank's policy response is a higher interest rate level (both nominal and real), commensurate with the change in the inflation trajectory.

### What can go wrong?

Central banks can make wrong assumptions and use wrong projections in their assessment of future inflation. This can lead them to set interest rates at an inappropriate level.

An example is the recent acceleration in the inflation rate in the US to a level above 8%. At an average of around 3% per annum, the US inflation rate was at a very low level for the last four decades. Recently the rate accelerated to above 8%, without an appropriate policy response by the US Federal Reserve.

As a result, US inflation could become a persistent problem.

This unexpected acceleration in prices caught US households by surprise.

Jannie Rossouw, University of the Witwatersrand

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# What Pandemic Fatigue?

*The authorities may feel some justification in the continuance of the emergency conditions that have prevailed since 2020 and extended repeatedly, for many citizens there is need for better justification for such a prolonged state of affairs*

Jan Arden

**T**he term pandemic fatigue, which may have been mentioned here and elsewhere over the past year or so, does not refer to weariness with sanitary protocols and restrictions that were absolutely vital to contain the viral spread and our individual health once the virus hit our shores. Most people, especially those with co-morbidities or the elderly, perhaps more willingly than others, have overcome whatever initial resistance to mandatory discharge forms and early internet-based disinformation that had been around, have queued up for long hours under rain or sun occasionally to get their initial and booster doses of vaccines done. Most people, shops and supermarkets have largely

**“When in our island context, the authorities may feel some justification in the continuance of the emergency conditions that have prevailed since 2020 and extended repeatedly, for many citizens there is need for better justification for such a prolonged state of affairs now. Continued emergency conditions have been associated, rightly or wrongly, with the dismissal of municipal elections, with large public sector contracts being allocated without the full operation and scrutiny of tender procedures and with policing that has become an irritating constraint on our civil rights and freedoms that should operate under normal conditions...”**



Covid-19 Emergency Conditions - 'If the public now seem exasperated by Covid measures, it may well express a high skepticism and resentment not with health measures but with factors associated with the pandemic environment and its handling'. Pic - Al Jazeera

respected the authorities' instructions for distancing or alphabetical listings, for regular hand disinfection, social distancing and wearing of masks in public places as were required. Government and health statistics bear out those general perceptions that justify decision-making.

Nevertheless, the authorities would have also noted the reluctance of many in the non-vulnerable groups probably to get enticed into a third booster dose, which is according to their and perhaps WHO reading, unnecessary even with new variants that have been cropping up. They would have also noted the somewhat absurd situation where tourists coming from source countries where face masks are no longer mandatory in public, have to find and wear face masks here as they trudge around the island. Half of Western Europe has indeed dropped such a requirement weeks or months ago and football stadiums have been packed to capacity in UK and elsewhere without any consequential rise in Covid-related

cases. Where are the Ministers who only recently were vaunting on international media that we have vanquished the pandemic and Mauritius was open for business and visitors even without specifying that Mauritians would continue to be weighed down by heavy policing hands?

Ordinary citizens are entitled to be troubled by our inconsistencies when according to responsible Ministers we are targeting some 100,000 inbound tourists monthly. They are entitled to be aggrieved when police circulars leaked seem to send officers to rake in more fixed penalty fines for not wearing masks properly with quotas imposed on the junior rungs. They are entitled to be indignant when the authorities disburse public funds, first-class tickets and huge per diems to a flying posse of Ministers with civil servants in tow, heading to the Dubai *jalsa* in the midst of difficult times and escalating prices of food, pharmaceuticals and fuel. They are entitled to ask why the emergency pandemic conditions that

curtail and severely restrict our freedoms and rights are still operative now that the worst is behind us. So, what would the term "pandemic fatigue", in so far as it reflects an issue, be really about?

In a recent opinion piece, which appeared in one of Britain's most respected medical journals, the *British Medical Journal* of 11th May this year, entitled 'Is it really time to ditch the mask?' the authors note that face masks as a useful mitigating measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19 have been ditched in most of Western Europe and analyse the pandemic fatigue which may have set in. The idea that public adherence to risk reduction strategies diminishes over time, they note, has been contradicted by several surveys and studies, but if the public now seem exasperated by Covid measures, it may well express a high skepticism and resentment not with health measures but with factors associated with the pandemic environment and its handling. That exasperation may be due to "a perceived break in the social contract and a lack of perceived coherence, transparency, communication or justification for decision-making".

Today, when general economic distress, joblessness, rupee depreciation of some 20% over the past two years, and the escalation of taxes, duties and levies including VAT hit the pumps, "pandemic fatigue" refers clearly to matters beyond sanitary protocols. When in our island context, the authorities may feel some justification in the continuance of the emergency conditions that have prevailed since 2, for many citizens there is need for better justification for such a prolonged state of affairs now. Continued emergency conditions have been associated, rightly or wrongly, with the dismissal of municipal elections, with large public sector contracts being allocated without the full operation and scrutiny of tender procedures and with policing that has become an irritating constraint on our civil rights and freedoms that should operate under normal conditions.

This may be the real "pandemic fatigue" that percolates through sections of society.



File photo taken on July 22, 2020 shows French Labour Minister Elisabeth Borne (L) and French President Emmanuel Macron are pictured at Chambord castle. Pic - AFP

## A Lady as French PM

**F**rench President Emmanuel Macron has appointed a lady as his Prime Minister responsible for coordinating a ministerial team towards generally implementing his policies. It is a first in the French republic (since the unfortunate Edith Cresson had a very short shelf-life) and many will be watching closely the authority, road-map and latitude of former Labour Minister Elizabeth Borne in her new capacity at Matignon.

The jointly agreed ministerial team will be appointed in the coming days after the usual series of necessary consultations. Sociologists and political analysts will reflect on why the political realities of European Mediterranean democracies generally have

not allowed women to rise to the highest offices despite some well-known figures in France who could have been worthy candidates over the years, notably Simone Weil, Segolene Royale or even Christine Lagarde.

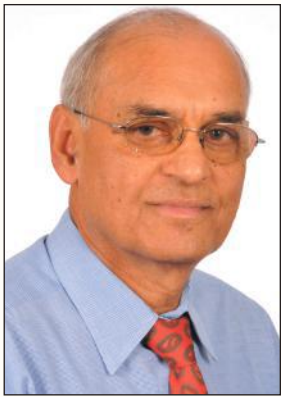
It would be trite to list the numerous figures that have held such high posts without undue fuss elsewhere around the world, from Indira Gandhi or Chandrika Bandaranaike in Sri Lanka, Carrie Lam in Hong-Kong, Jacinda Arden in New Zealand, and in the northern European states where Margaret Thatcher and Angela Merkel come immediately to mind as exceptional public figures.

Are there cultural factors at play? In an aside, are our contexts closer to the Mediterranean mould or the wider world?

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# World in Need of Reconciliation and Healing



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

*The idea of healing by openly exposing hitherto hidden truths that have caused immense suffering to so many people across the world is not new, the hope being that such candid revelations publicly made would constitute a kind of collective catharsis*

**T**he latest that I have come across about the Ukrainian war is that President Zelensky has declared that he is now prepared to consider neutrality, that is not tilt towards the West - US and Europe - or towards Russia, and not push for NATO membership which would automatically mean being pro-West. In this regard, it is now public knowledge that Ukraine joining NATO was never going to be a walk-over, despite Zelensky's expectation, wish or hope. In fact, the process is now pushed back even further because after the war has started there are so many conditions that must be met by Ukraine.

Paradoxically, Finland and Sweden which had maintained neutrality so far have now applied to join NATO. Apparently, this is being considered favourably, and the adhesion may not be far away. It is worth noting that Russia has declared that should this happen, it mustn't be expected that there will be no response from its side. Does this mean the opening of another theatre of war in Europe? Is that what has all the while been implied by the constant drumming about World War III?

Already, that conflict is impacting the whole world adversely on so many fronts - supply of sunflower oil, wheat, raw materials, petrol and gas, with prices shooting up everywhere and causing great hardship across the board. As regards petrol and gas, it appears that surreptitiously European countries continue to be supplied from Russia, for which they are paying in billions of dollars or rubles, and this is obviously allowing the perpetuation of the war, a classic case of positive feedback.

All countries have therefore a vested interest in seeing an end to this mayhem as soon as possible - although those who are profiting from it may not agree. The question that arises is whether it could have been prevented. At least to me this possibility seems to have existed - if only at the outset President Zelensky had anticipated the Russian intention and the ferocity of its assault, and chosen THEN rather than NOW to opt for neutrality, as former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had put forward, and apparently that was the Russian stance too. That opportunity having been lost, what can be done now? Has President Zelensky officially communicated his revised position to the Russian President?

That is certainly a crucial step, because it should be clear that for the sake of the whole world there is now a great need for reconciliation and healing between these two warring parties, whether by direct negotiation - which would probably be better - or by intermediaries, which would mean US and NATO pitching in. It is for

these two brother-countries to decide what is best for them, but there can be no gainsaying that it is high time to stop the destruction and unnecessary deaths of innocents on both sides of the divide.

## Truth Commissions

The idea of healing by openly exposing hitherto hidden truths that have caused immense suffering to so many people across the world is not new, the hope being that such candid revelations on the part of the victims as well as the perpetrators publicly made would constitute a kind of collective catharsis that would then lead to reconciliation. Thus, the setting up of Truth & Reconciliation or Justice Commissions with a broad mandate that goes beyond the purely legal to touch the core human dimension.

Perhaps the most well known in recent times, other than our own Truth and Justice Commission, is the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was set up in 1995 in South Africa to hear witnesses' accounts of their experiences of apartheid. It was chaired by the iconic Bishop Desmond Tutu who passed away recently, but he was no doubt the most appropriate person to occupy that office. The outcome may not have been as much as expected, but at least it hopefully set the people thinking about what happens when there is a permanent atmosphere of antagonism and enmity that is created by one party that seeks to dominate the other, and not allow such a situation to ever occur again.

There have been such commissions set up elsewhere earlier, such as in the US, as is detailed in an article 'The impossible task of truth and reconciliation' in Vox News by Jen Kirbyjen on March 24, 2022, 'to look at the effects of slavery and institutional racism in America.' It is worth pondering what he writes:

'There is no one-size-fits-all truth commission, but in the past 50 years, this form of transitional justice has become a common tool to help societies move away from war or authoritarianism. More than 40 countries have used them in the aftermath of a major rupture - the fall of a dictatorship, a civil war, a genocide,' and alludes to the TRC of South Africa.

Further, he continues, 'The best truth commissions, experts say, are those that center victims, specifically the people or communities most marginalized by abuses or atrocities. This often means giving victims or their descendants a chance to testify, sometimes publicly, about how abuse or oppression affected them or their communities. Sometimes, commissions invite perpetrators, too, to testify or admit their roles in violence or abuse. Sometimes, they are there solely to bear witness to the harm they've caused.'

"Victims" and "perpetrators" are black-and-white terms for situations that are almost always more complicated, and those distinctions can blur in times of war and oppression. Truth commissions exist because they deal with issues that are too big and too systemic to fit into the parameters of, say, a criminal trial. They operate



Truth Commissions & Reconciliation. Pic - McGill Journal of Political Studies

**"All countries have therefore a vested interest in seeing an end to this mayhem as soon as possible - although those who are profiting from it may not agree. The question that arises is whether it could have been prevented. At least to me this possibility seems to have existed - if only at the outset President Zelensky had anticipated the Russian intention and the ferocity of its assault, and chosen THEN rather than NOW to opt for neutrality, as former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had put forward, and apparently that was the Russian stance too..."**

under a radical concept: that all of society has a right to fully know what happened, and how, and why. They expose the extent of the atrocities and aim to unravel what allowed them to happen, in the hope that the knowledge could prevent them from happening again.'

## Inconvenient truths

Apart from Ukraine-Russia, there are other countries and regions where TRCs are urgently needed to prevent descent into mayhem, and each case has to be dealt with separately. Syria comes to mind, as well as Yemen/Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and India where currently there is much animosity between the two main communities, Hindus and Muslims, because of inconvenient truths that are being revealed by archaeological and other findings, currently concerning the Gyanvapi mosque-mandir in Varanasi. Such findings - among other ones - laboriously and meticulously discovered, collected, documented and presented by archaeologist KK Mohammad to the Supreme Court when the case was being examined helped immensely to set to rest once for all the Ram Mandir issue at Ayodhya.

With a desire to stick to truths similarly revealed by established scientific and archaeological methods in the case of the Gyanvapi mosque-mandir, and goodwill on both sides, there is no reason why an outcome akin to the Ayodhya one cannot be reached.

In this respect, two very well-articulated and sober articles in the Indian press rise above the din and provide very balanced insights that can contribute to the way forward towards reconciliation and healing. They are 'Beyond Politics, Gyanvapi Is About The Hindu Civilisation' in *Swarajya* magazine of May 16, 2022 by Taushar Gupta, sub-editor, and 'The Places of Worship Act is a generous law. Indian Muslims can best reciprocate this generosity by adhering to the Quranic morality in Gyanvapi Masjid's case,' by Ibn Khaldun Bharati in *The Print* of 17 May, 2022.

Yes, the whole world is in great need of reconciliation and healing.



## Judicial Independence

# “There is no reason to believe that the judiciary in Mauritius is not independent”

**T**here are no indications that our judiciary does not value its independence even if the current mode of appointment of the Chief Justice, by the President on the advice of the PM, may have to be looked into. Our Supreme Court operates differently from the judicial activism and public interest litigation that were pioneered by the Supreme Court of India. Nevertheless, it has important roles for instance in upholding the sanctity of our electoral processes. Lex shares his views.

LEX

\* The textbook explanation of judicial independence is that the judiciary should be independent from the other branches of government, that is courts should not be subject to ‘improper influence from the other branches of government or from private or partisan interests’. Does our judiciary meet those criteria?

As at present advised, there is no reason to believe that the judiciary in Mauritius is not independent. Rumours create an atmosphere of mistrust, and any allegation which suggests otherwise has to be proved.

\* Besides constitutional safeguards, could it be said that security of tenure and proper terms and conditions of service as well as prohibition of practice after retirement do contribute towards promoting the independence of our judiciary?

Of course, security of tenure is a key factor in maintaining the independence of judges. The prohibition to practise is only modelled on a British tradition that judges should not go into private practice as barristers. But they can act as consultants.

\* It’s said and expected that that the independence of the judiciary has to be promoted or led by the Supreme Court, the highest judicial authority in the land. Have there been instances where our Honourable Judges have stepped forward to check unwarranted attempts to exercise control over the judiciary or to ensure that there is no misuse of power by any section of the government or political authority?

Judges are not supposed to enter into any public controversy. It is because of this that those who aim to or do criticize judges, either in private or in public, should bear in mind this factor.

In the case of the Slovak national, for example, the judge whose order was breached referred the matter to the DPP.

\* What is the judiciary, as presently constituted, doing to ensure its independence?

The Chief Justice is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Is this the right way to go about it? It’s a question worth pondering. It could be left to the President to appoint the Chief Justice in his own deliberate judgment. But again, the President is a political nominee. All this does not look healthy. But once



“No election petition has been successful since the 2019 elections. This is not to say that the judges have not discharged their judicial functions independently. However, one is entitled to ask questions about the recourse to computers on Counting Day. There is also the point made by Darmajai Mulloo, Chief Electoral Officer, before the Court that ‘partial results are not regulated by any enactment but still they are announced by the Returning Officers... and in the same manner, the computer room could be set up in the absence of any rules’. How could that be normal and legal?”

the Chief Justice is appointed, he/she should be totally immune from any influence from the Executive.

\* The Supreme Court has no power to enforce its decisions. What if the Executive and Legislative branches refuse to carry out its rulings?

Anybody or any institution that does not obey or comply with a court order is amenable to being punished for contempt of court.

\* There have been reports recently of some young lady magistrates, mostly of the Intermediate Court, taking to task other powerful arms of the government — the police or even the SLO — and refusing to receive instructions in the exercise of their jurisdiction. A welcome change?

Any magistrate or any judge is a buffer between the Executive represented by the police, the Office of the DPP or the State and the general public. This is not to be viewed as a welcome change. This has always been the case though unfortunately some magistrates are perceived to be very leaning towards the police.

\* The judiciary can also play an important role in ensuring that democracy does not give way to any form of dictatorship. But it can only play this role if it’s independent. Are there lessons to draw from the Indian judiciary, known for its independence and extensive powers, in that regard?

One cannot compare the Mauritius Supreme Court to the Indian Supreme Court. In India there is a very active and vibrant Supreme Court that places the rights of the individual at the forefront of its concerns without relinquishing its independence or its commitment towards fairness and impartiality.

Take, for example, the notion of public interest litigation that has been created by the Supreme Court of India. Do you see this happening here? In Mauritius before anybody can challenge any matter of general public interest, he must show how he has an interest in the matter, in other words he has to demonstrate that he has locus standi.

\* The Supreme Court of India is said to have become ‘more active through constitutional interpretation’, and that is why judicial activism there has become quite popular with judges ‘protecting the rights of citizens or from political unfairness, formulating social policies, and ensuring justice even when the relevant federal bodies are not performing their duties’. Why was the judicial activism necessary when it’s the Supreme Court’s mandate to safeguard people’s rights and freedoms and ensure equal protection for all in the first place?

Indeed. The Indian Supreme Court is viewed as a very liberal and active court unlike the Mauritius Supreme Court that is considered to be quite conservative on many issues.

\* The judiciary’s role in deciding the validity of parliamentary elections also necessitates independence of the judiciary. Have we done fairly well on that count, isn’t it?

Independence of judges in determining election petitions is of the utmost importance.

No election petition has been successful since the 2019 elections. This is not to say that the judges have not discharged their judicial functions independently.

However, one is entitled to ask questions about the recourse to computers on Counting Day. How could that be normal and legal? As a matter of fact, the failure of the Electoral Commission to inform candidates of the presence of the computer room, an issue that had been flagged by the opposition parties to contest the legality of the 2019 general elections, was noted by the Judges in the Erza Jhuboo petition when they said that it was a matter of ‘serious concern as it unnecessarily creates a situation whereby doubts as to the integrity of the counting process may arise’.

There is also the point made by Darmajai Mulloo, Chief Electoral Officer, before the Court that ‘partial results are not regulated by any enactment but still they are announced by the Returning Officers... and in the same manner, the computer room could be set up in the absence of any rules’. How could that be normal and legal?

\* On the other hand, judges are not democratically accountable to the people, and there is the risk that an extremely independent judiciary might lack judicial accountability with possible abuse of power made by judges. What’s your take on that?

The only accountability is public opinion. Judges’ reputation rises or falls according to the perception that the public has of their decisions.



## The Abortion Debate



Anil Madan

# The Most Dangerous Branch – Justice Alito's un-American Screed

*It is a sad commentary that courts in Colombia, Argentina, and Mexico have ruled to decriminalize abortion while the American Ayatollahs of the US Supreme Court yank us backward with their medieval thinking*

In Federalist 78, Alexander Hamilton spoke to the division of power among the different departments or branches established by the new Constitution of the United States. In describing the judiciary as the least dangerous department or branch, he wrote: "Whoever attentively considers the different departments of power must perceive, that in a government in which they are separated from each other, the judiciary, from the nature of its functions, will always be the least dangerous to the political rights of the constitution; because it will be least in a capacity to annoy or injure them. The executive not only dispenses the honors, but holds the sword of the community. The legislature not only commands the purse, but prescribes the rules by which the duties and rights of every citizen are to be regulated. The judiciary on the contrary has no influence over either the sword or the purse."

Little did he know that the Supreme Court would one day strive to control women's fallopian tubes and the uterus and thus become the most dangerous branch of government as its right-wing judges pander to the preferences of the Republican senators who put them there.

Justice Alito's draft opinion (circulated among US Supreme Court justices, and which suggested that earlier this year a majority of them had thrown support behind overturning the 1973 case *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion in the US) is a tour de force of shoddy reasoning, willful evasion, and reflects a hell-bent determination to do something that is un-American to the core: declare that a fundamental right can be legislated away by a state. It is an invitation for a minority view of morality to be imposed on those who do not share such a view. It is a march back to the 12th Century or before.

Before we explore why Justice Alito's pronouncements do not hold water, let us go back and understand what *Roe v. Wade* really decided and how the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision clarified the *Roe*'s essential holding. Then we can see why Justice Alito either misunderstands or misstates these holdings and why his decision tramples on fundamental values. In fact, we will see that for a man who professes to be a strict constructionist, applying only the language of the Constitution, he in fact ignores the plain words of that document.

## The Core Ruling of *Roe v. Wade*

In *Roe v. Wade*, the court acknowledged that the Constitution does not explicitly mention any right of privacy. Nevertheless, in decisions going back at least to 1891, the Supreme Court has recognized a right to privacy. In the *Union Pacific R. Co. v. Botsford* case, the court declared: "No right is held more sacred or is more carefully guarded by the common law than the right of every individual to the possession and control of his own person, free from all restraint or interference of others unless by clear and unquestionable authority of law." That was in 1891. Note that the court adverted to the common law, meaning that this recognition was of long-standing duration and indeed, before the first settlers arrived to colonize America.

In 1969, four years before *Roe* was decided, the Supreme Court observed in *Stanley v. Georgia*, "Also fundamental is the right to be free, except in very limited circumstances, from unwanted governmental intrusions into one's privacy." Justice Blackmun writing for the court, gave other examples and noted that some courts had found the right to privacy inheres in the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment to the US Constitution. In the 1923 case *Meyer v. Nebraska*, the court expressed it thus: "Without doubt, it denotes not merely freedom from bodily restraint, but also the right of the individual to contract, to engage in any of the common occupations of life, to acquire useful knowledge, to marry, establish a home and bring up children, to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and generally to enjoy those privileges long recognized at common law as essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men."

I note that the freedom to marry, establish a home, and to bring up children cannot be freedoms unless the concept includes the right NOT to marry, NOT to establish a (marital) home, and NOT to have children.

Importantly, in the *Meyer* case, the court stated: "The established doctrine is that this liberty may not be interfered with, under the guise of protecting the public interest, by legislative action which is arbitrary or without reasonable relation to some purpose within the competency of the State to effect. Determination by the legislature of what constitutes proper exercise of police power is not final or conclusive but is subject to supervision by the courts."

With this historical recognition of the right, the Supreme Court in *Roe* ruled that the right to privacy "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy."

It is important to remember that the opinion in *Roe* explicitly states that the woman's right to decide the abortion question is founded in the Fourteenth Amendment's concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action, but also acknowledges, without criticizing the ruling, that the lower court found the right to be within those reserved by the Ninth Amendment to the people. I will return to the Ninth Amendment later in this review.

The rest of the court's opinion in *Roe* dealt with the recognition that the right to terminate a pregnancy is not unfettered through the entire period of gestation but must bear some relationship to viability of the fetus and that the state has a legitimate interest in preserving the life of both the mother and the unborn child. As a result, the court seeing no bright line where viability is conclusive, established markers based on the three trimesters of pregnancy. To be sure, there is no constitutional imperative to these lines, but they do deal with the constitutional imperative of securing fundamental rights of the mother, while also pre-



**"The Ninth Amendment to the Constitution is strikingly straightforward: "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." The meaning of this language is simple and straightforward. It means simply that the fact that, for example, the right to free speech is listed as a protected right, does not mean that another right, for example, the right to privacy or liberty, may be denied or disparaged..."**

serving the *legitimate* interest of the state in reasonable regulation through legislation.

## Roe v. Wade Ratified

In the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the essential holding of *Roe*. And the court took pains to explain that the holding of *Roe* has three parts. First is the right of the woman to have an abortion before viability without undue interference from the state. Second, it confirms the power of the state to restrict abortions after fetal viability so long as the law does not reach so far as to restrict them when the woman's life or health is in danger. Third, the state has a legitimate interest from the outset of the pregnancy in protecting the health of the woman and the life of the fetus that may become a child. The court did not see these principles as contradicting one another.

Significantly, the court in *Casey* reiterated that this constitutional right derives from the Fourteenth Amendment which declares that no State shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." The concept of "liberty" is at issue and the Due Process clause has been interpreted as protecting all fundamental rights comprised within the term "liberty." These guarantees of due process are longstanding, having their roots in Magna Carta and, in the United States, they have become bulwarks against arbitrary legislation regardless of the procedures used to adopt such laws.

The Constitution does not mention the word "marriage". Nevertheless, the substantive due process rights have led to protection of both interracial and same-sex marriage.

● Cont. on page 7



# The Most Dangerous Branch

## – Justice Alito's un-American Screed

● Cont. from page 6

Similar protections have been extended to rights of procreation, contraception, family relationships, child rearing, and education. None of these is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.

The Casey case clarified that the right to liberty is not a series of isolated points that are limited to those rights mentioned in the Bill of Rights, i.e., the taking of property, freedom of speech, press, and religion, the right to keep and bear arms, or freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, but rather it is a rational continuum which, broadly speaking, includes a freedom from all substantial arbitrary impositions and purposeless restraints.

Where there are differences of opinion based on morality, here's what the court in Casey said: "Men and women of good conscience can disagree, and we suppose some always shall disagree, about the profound moral and spiritual implications of terminating a pregnancy, even in its earliest stage. Some of us as individuals find abortion offensive to our most basic principles of morality, but that cannot control our decision. Our obligation is to define the liberty of all, not to mandate our own moral code. The underlying constitutional issue is whether the State can resolve these philosophical questions in such a definitive way that a woman lacks all choice in the matter, except perhaps in those rare circumstances in which the pregnancy is itself a danger to her own life or health or is the result of rape or incest."

And the Casey court explained that ultimately, "It is conventional constitutional doctrine that where reasonable people disagree the government can adopt one position or the other. That theorem, however, assumes a state of affairs in which the choice does not intrude upon a protected liberty."

To make it clear, the state may NOT intrude upon a protected liberty by endorsing one moral choice over another.

### The Ninth Amendment

The Ninth Amendment to the Constitution is strikingly straightforward: "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

The meaning of this language is simple and straightforward. It means simply that the fact that, for example, the right to free speech is listed as a protected right, does not mean that another right, for example, the right to privacy or liberty, may be denied or disparaged.

This may be obvious, but it is worth noting that the framers of the Constitution were expressly stating that the people have more rights than those specifically mentioned in the Constitution.

### The Right to Liberty

Is there a right to liberty? And, if so, is it one of long standing and recognition?

The answer is as strikingly straightforward as is the Ninth Amendment. The Declaration of Independence, which predated the Constitution by eleven years, declared: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

The document that set out the basis on which this nation was conceived declared liberty not only a right but an unalienable right. It is worth noting that in his Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln spoke of a nation "conceived in

liberty."

The significance of the Declaration of Independence was not lost on the framers of the Constitution. The Preamble to the Constitution states: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." The very purpose of the Constitution is stated to be to secure the Blessings of Liberty.

There is no question that Liberty is a right protected by the Constitution.

### Justice Alito's Opinion

With that background in what the Supreme Court had decided, let us turn to Alito's draft opinion.

At the outset, Alito falsely states that the opinion of the justices who upheld *Roe* did not endorse *Roe*'s reasoning. As we have seen, this is emphatically not so. Nor did any of the justices have reservations about whether the Constitution protects a right to abortion as Alito states. In fact, the statement of the court on this aspect of the matter bears our attention: "Though abortion is conduct, it does not follow that the State is entitled to proscribe it in all instances. That is because the liberty of the woman is at stake in a sense unique to the human condition and so unique to the law. The mother who carries a child to full term is subject to anxieties, to physical constraints, to pain that only she must bear. That these sacrifices have from the beginning of the human race been endured by woman with a pride that ennobles her in the eyes of others and gives to the infant a bond of love cannot alone be grounds for the State to insist she make the sacrifice. Her suffering is too intimate and personal for the State to insist, without more, upon its own vision of the woman's role, however dominant that vision has been in the course of our history and our culture. The destiny of the woman must be shaped to a large extent on her own conception of her spiritual imperatives and her place in society."

Alito's next attack was on the rationale of *Roe* as confirmed and ratified by *Casey*. He declared that the Constitution makes no reference to abortion and "no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including ... the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. That provision has been held to guarantee the rights that are not mentioned in the Constitution, but any such right must be 'deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition.'"

There are three responses to this nonsensical statement. *First*, no right could more deeply rooted in American history and tradition than the right to liberty as we have seen. *Second*, since Alito claims to be a strict constructionist who adheres to the language of the Constitution, why does the Ninth Amendment not prevent him from denying a right based on liberty? *Third*, Alito cites the case of *Washington v. Glucksberg*, but that case does not stand for the proposition that he attributes to it. In that case, the court held that a law preventing assisted suicide was not unconstitutional because assisting suicide had never been deemed a right and neither had any right to commit suicide ever been recognized.

Ultimately, Alito's opinion depends on a view of morality that is as un-American as any ever stated by a court. He begins his opinion by stating: "Abortion presents a profound



Pic - South China Morning Post

“In the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision, the Supreme Court took pains to explain that the holding of *Roe* has three parts. First is the right of the woman to have an abortion before viability without undue interference from the state. Second, it confirms the power of the state to restrict abortions after fetal viability so long as the law does not reach so far as to restrict them when the woman's life or health is in danger. Third, the state has a legitimate interest from the outset of the pregnancy in protecting the health of the woman and the life of the fetus that may become a child....”

moral issue on which Americans' hold sharply conflicting views." His opinion ends with this: "We end this opinion where we began. Abortion presents a profound moral question. The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion. *Roe* and *Casey* arrogated that authority. We now overrule those decisions." In between, he wrote: "It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives." Of course, this is nonsense. As he already stated, the Constitution does not mention abortion, let alone stating that the issue should be decided by the people's elected representatives.

Nor does Alito ever explain why the majority, or a minority for that matter, is entitled to legislate its view of morality in curbing the rights of individuals who disagree with the views of morality adopted by their fellow citizens or elected representatives.

### A Profoundly un-American Decision

Justice Alito's view of the power of the government to dictate what free individuals are allowed to do and what they may not do in pursuing their own happiness is at odds with the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution. It is also at variance with the Fourteenth Amendment and the Ninth Amendment.

Nor is what he writes sound constitutional interpretation. The Constitution expressly declares that rights not enumerated shall not be denied or abridged. The right to liberty is a fundamental right. Yet, Alito suggests that a legislature in one state elected by Republicans may deny such a right whereas a legislature elected by Democrats in another state may grant and enlarge such a right. Where is equality in that concept of government?

Alito may have profound religious objections to abortion. The simple answer is, if you are opposed to abortion, don't have one. There is nothing in our Constitution that permits the followers of one religion to impose their views of morality on others.

It is a sad commentary that courts in Colombia, Argentina, and Mexico have ruled to decriminalize abortion while the American Ayatollahs of the US Supreme Court yank us backward with their medieval thinking.

Cheerz...

Bwana





An employee of Songyo Knitwear Factory in Songyo district disinfects the work floor in Pyongyang. Pic- AP

## North Korea's suspected Covid-19 caseload nears two million

**N**orth Korea on Thursday reported 262,270 more suspected Covid-19 cases as its pandemic caseload neared 2 million — a week after the country acknowledged the outbreak and scrambled to slow infections in its unvaccinated population.

The country is also trying to prevent its fragile economy from deteriorating further, but the outbreak could be worse than officially reported since the country lacks virus tests and other health care resources and may be underreporting deaths to soften the political impact on authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korea's anti-virus headquarters reported a single additional

death, raising its toll to 63, which experts have said is abnormally small compared to the suspected number of coronavirus infections, reports AP.

The official Korean Central News Agency said more than 1.98 million people have become sick with fever since late April. Most are believed to have Covid-19, though only a few omicron variant infections have been confirmed. At least 740,160 people are in quarantine, the news agency reported.

After maintaining a dubious claim that it had kept the virus out of the country for two and a half years, North Korea acknowledged its first Covid-19 infections May 12 and has

described a rapid spread since.

Kim has called the outbreak a "great upheaval," berated officials for letting the virus spread and restricted the movement of people and supplies between cities and regions.

Workers were mobilized to find people with suspected Covid-19 symptoms who were then sent to quarantine — the main method of curbing the outbreak since North Korea is short of medical supplies and intensive care units that lowered Covid-19 hospitalizations and deaths in other nations.

Experts say North Korea cannot afford a lockdown that would hinder production in an economy already broken by mismanagement, crippling U.S.-led sanctions over Kim's nuclear weapons ambitions and pandemic border closures.

It's unclear, however, if North Korea would accept outside help. It already shunned vaccines offered by the U.N.-backed Covax distribution program, and the nation's leaders have expressed confidence the country can overcome the crisis on its own.

Experts have said North Korea may be more willing to accept help from China, its main ally. South Korea's government had said it couldn't confirm media reports that North Korea flew planes to bring back emergency supplies from China this week.



Sri Lanka Air Force members guarding the Prime Minister's official residence amid the country's economic crisis, in Colombo. Pic- Reuters

## Sri Lanka economic crisis: CID interrogates 4 MPs over attacks on protesters

**O**fficers from Sri Lanka Police's Criminal Investigation Department have questioned four Members of Parliament, including two former ministers, over last week's violence against protesters at two protest sites in Colombo, the country's largest city.

According to reports, a CID team arrived at the Parliament Complex on Wednesday to interrogate — with the Speaker's permission — and record the statements of Rohitha Abeygunawardena and CB Ratnayake, the two ex-ministers. The team also questioned and recorded the statements of MPs Sahan Pradeep and Sanjeewa Edirimanne, reports Hindustan Times.

On Tuesday too, a CID team questioned several parliamentarians in connection with the May 9 attacks on demonstrators by supporters of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his older brother, then-Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, at the 'Main Go Gama' and 'Gota Go Gama' protest sites, at Temple Trees and Galle Face Green, respectively, in Colombo.

More than 100 protesters were injured at Galle Face Green as a result of the mob attack. This prompted Mahinda Rajapaksa, already under pressure to step down due to the island nation's worst economic crisis, to resign.

Later that day, furious agitators laid siege to Temple Trees, the official residence of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, forcing the military to intervene and whisk Mahinda Rajapaksa and his family away to safety.

With no government in place, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, last Thursday, appointed Ranil Wickremesinghe as the Prime Minister, which marked the latter's record sixth stint in the position. In a national address on May 16, Wickremesinghe said, among other things, that the country's economy was in a 'precarious condition' and that the nation of 22 million inhabitants was 'currently out of petrol.'

\* Contd on page 9

## World Bank to offer \$30 billion as Ukraine war threatens food security

**T**he World Bank said on Wednesday it will make \$30 billion available to help stem a food security crisis threatened by Russia's war in Ukraine, which has cut off most grain exports from the two countries.

The total will include \$12 billion in new projects and over \$18 billion funds from existing food and nutrition-related projects that have been approved but have not yet been disbursed, the bank said.

The bank said the new projects are expected to support agriculture, social protection to cushion the effects of higher food prices on the poor, and water and irrigation projects. The majority of resources going to Africa and the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and South Asia, reports Reuters.

These areas are among the hardest hit by the impact of the war in Ukraine on grain supplies. Countries such as Egypt are highly dependent on Ukrainian and Russian wheat and are scrambling for supplies as Russia has blockaded Ukraine's agricultural exports from Black Sea ports and has imposed domestic export



The World Bank's plans were the largest component of a US Treasury Department report summarizing food security action plans from international financial institutions released on Wednesday. Pic- Reuters

restrictions.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development plans to make 500 million euros available for food security and trade finance for agricultural and food products, out of a 2 billion euro package for Ukraine and neighboring countries affected by the war, the Treasury report said. Ukraine would

get 200 million euros and neighboring countries would get 300 million euros.

The International Monetary Fund will provide financing support through its normal channels, which are limited by countries' shareholdings and whether their debt is deemed sustainable.

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# US to offer India \$500 mn in military aid to reduce Russia dependence

The US is preparing a military aid package for India to deepen security ties and reduce the country's dependence on Russian weapons, people familiar with the matter said.

The package under consideration would include foreign military financing of as much as \$500 million dollars, according to one person, which would make India one of the largest recipients of such aid behind Israel and Egypt. It's unclear when the deal would be announced, or what weapons would be included.

The effort is part of a much larger initiative by President Joe Biden's administration to court India as a long-term security partner, despite its reluctance to criticize Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, according to a senior US official who asked not to be named, reports Bloomberg.

Washington wants to be seen as a reliable partner for India across the board, the official added, and the administration is working with other nations including France to make sure Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has the equipment it needs. While India is already diversifying its military platforms away from Russia, the US wants to help make that happen faster, the official said.



An Indian Army battle tank performs an operation demonstration during a defense expo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. Pic - Bloomberg

The major challenge remains how to provide India major platforms like fighter jets, naval ships and battle tanks, the official said, adding that the administration is looking for a breakthrough in one of these areas. The financing package being discussed would do little to make those types of systems -- which can cost billions or tens of billions of dollars -- more affordable, but it would be a significant symbolic sign of support.

India's Foreign Ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. Officials at the State Department and US embassy in New Delhi didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

India is the world's largest buyer of Russian weapons, although it has scaled back that relationship of late.

Over the past decade, India has bought more than \$4 billion worth of military equipment from the US and more than \$25 billion from Russia, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

India's dependence on Russia for weapons against neighbours China and Pakistan is a big reason Modi's government has avoided criticizing Russian President Vladimir Putin over the war in Ukraine. As the US, Europe, Australia and Japan piled economic sanctions on

Russia, India has held off and instead continued imports of discounted Russian oil.

While the US and its allies were initially frustrated with India, they have sought to woo Modi's government as a key security partner -- including against China in the Indo-Pacific region. Modi is set to join a summit with Biden next week in South Korea that also includes Quad members Japan and Australia, and the Indian leader also received an invitation to join the Group of Seven leaders in Germany next month.

Links between the US and India have steadily deepened over the past two decades, with the two sides reaching agreements that allow for more interoperability between their military platforms.

Still, it remains to be seen how far India will go in accepting US military assistance. Russia has historically supplied the majority of India's military hardware, including fighter jets and missiles, as well as almost all its tanks and helicopters. Modi's government has told the US the alternatives to moving away completely from Russian weapons imports are too expensive, according to people familiar with the situation.

## A third of US should be considering masks, officials say

Covid-19 cases are increasing in the United States — and could get even worse over the coming months, federal health officials warned Wednesday in urging areas hardest hit to consider reissuing calls for indoor masking.

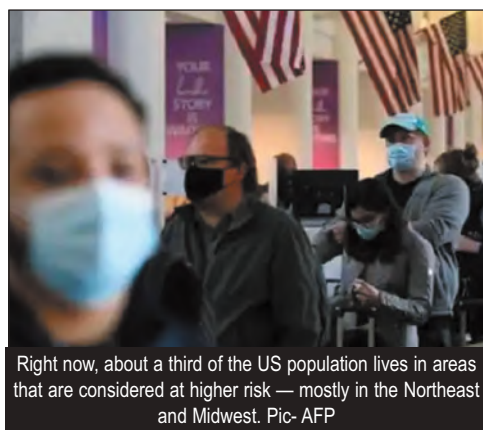
Right now, about a third of the US population lives in areas that are considered at higher risk — mostly in the Northeast and Midwest. Those are areas where people should already be considering wearing masks indoors — but Americans elsewhere should also take notice, reports AP.

However, officials were cautious about making concrete predictions, saying how much worse the pandemic gets will depend on several factors, including to what degree previous infections will protect against new variants.

Last week, White House Covid-19 coordinator Dr Ashish Jha warned in an interview with The Associated Press the US will be increasingly vulnerable to the coronavirus this fall and winter if Congress doesn't swiftly approve new funding for more vaccines and treatments.

Jha warned that without additional funding from Congress for the virus would cause "unnecessary loss of life" in the fall and winter, when the US runs out of treatments.

The pandemic is now 2 1/2 years old. And the US has seen — depending how you count them — five waves of Covid-19



Right now, about a third of the US population lives in areas that are considered at higher risk — mostly in the Northeast and Midwest. Pic- AFP

during that time, with the later surges driven by mutated versions of the coronavirus. A fifth wave occurred mainly in December and January, caused by the omicron variant.

The omicron variant spread much more easily than earlier versions. Some experts are worried the country now is seeing signs of a sixth wave, driven by an omicron sub-variant.

Hospitalizations also are rising, up 19% in the past week, though they remain much lower than during the omicron wave.

Officials said they are concerned that waning immunity and relaxed mitigation measures across the country may contribute to a continued rise in infections and illnesses across the country. They encouraged people — particularly older adults — to get boosters.

## Why monkeypox cases are rising in Europe

A handful of cases of monkeypox have now been reported or are suspected in the United Kingdom, Portugal and Spain.

The outbreaks are raising alarm because the disease mostly occurs in west and central Africa, and only very occasionally spreads elsewhere, reports Reuters.

Here's what scientists know so far.

Monkeypox is a virus that causes fever symptoms as well as a distinctive bumpy rash. It is usually mild, although there are two main strains: the Congo strain, which is more severe — with up to 10% mortality — and the West African strain, which has a fatality rate of more like 1% of cases. The UK cases are least have been reported as the West African strain.

Portugal has logged five confirmed cases, and Spain is testing 23 potential cases. Neither country has reported cases before.

### Transmission

The virus spreads through close contact, both in spillovers from animal hosts and, less commonly, between humans. It was first found in monkeys in 1958, hence the name, although rodents are now seen as the main source of transmission.

Transmission this time is puzzling experts, because a number of the cases

in the United Kingdom — nine as of May 18 — have no known connection with each other. Only the first case reported on May 6 had recently travelled to Nigeria.

As such, experts have warned of wider transmission if cases have gone unreported.

The UK Health Security Agency's alert also highlighted that the recent cases were predominantly among men who self-identified as gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men, and advised those groups to be alert.

Scientists will now sequence the virus to see if they are linked, the World Health Organization (WHO) said this week.

One likely scenario behind the increase in cases is increased travel as Covid restrictions are lifted.

Monkeypox puts virologists on the alert because it is in the smallpox family, although it causes less serious illness.

Smallpox was eradicated by vaccination in 1980, and the shot has been phased out. But it also protects against monkeypox, and so the winding down of vaccination campaigns has led to a jump in monkeypox cases, according to Anne Rimoin, an epidemiology professor at UCLA in California.

But experts urged people not to panic.



Jean Claude de L'Estrac

# "Il n'y a presque plus de contre-pouvoirs"

*'Le PM verrouille totalement le système. Cette tentative a été celle de tous les Premiers ministres, mais personne n'a été aussi loin que Pravind Jugnauth'*

**P**our les uns, l'argent a un pouvoir destructeur, néfaste pour des liens humains fondés sur l'intégrité et le maintien d'une démocratie saine. Pour d'autres, l'argent subit différentes formes de marquage social, et les contours sont redessinés en fonction du contexte. Que se passe-t-il alors dans l'espace politique aujourd'hui dans notre pays? Les dépenses pour les activités politiques demeurent occultes tandis que les sources de financements sont de plus en plus transparentes. Y a-t-il un lien entre les récents événements qui ont fait la Une et cette question préoccupante? Jean Claude de L'Estrac nous donne son opinion.



**Mauritius Times :** L'exercice du pouvoir par le gouvernement en place est assez singulier dans sa gestion des événements des dernières semaines, que ce soit par rapport à la déportation du ressortissant slovaque ou du conflit opposant le MTC à la GRA, entre autres. Il fait montre d'un gouvernement déterminé à mater toute contestation d'où qu'elle vienne. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, plus légaliste, aurait-il été plus conciliant, selon vous?

**Jean Claude de L'Estrac :** Nous ne ferons pas d'amalgame. La déportation justifiée du Slovaque est une affaire d'Etat. Le litige opposant la GRA au MTC est une vendetta politique.

Ce dernier cas est une nouvelle illustration de la politique que mène le Premier ministre. Il entend prendre le contrôle de toutes les institutions qui exercent des pouvoirs et placer partout uniquement ses partisans. Il verrouille totalement le système.

« Le litige opposant la GRA au MTC est une vendetta politique. Ce dernier cas est une nouvelle illustration de la politique que mène le Premier ministre. Il entend prendre le contrôle de toutes les institutions qui exercent des pouvoirs et placer partout uniquement ses partisans. Il verrouille totalement le système... »

A l'exception du judiciaire et des médias libres, il n'y a presque plus de contre-pouvoirs, pourtant indispensables au bon fonctionnement de la démocratie.

Cette tentative a été celle de tous les Premiers ministres, mais personne n'a été aussi loin que Pravind Jugnauth, même pas sir Anerood qui n'était pourtant pas un grand démocrate. Pravind devrait se méfier d'un retour de manivelle.

\* Même le MTC, symbole de la puissance économique d'une frange très influente de la population, a dû courber l'échine devant le pouvoir politique déterminé à s'approprier un business qui rapporte gros à certains opérateurs, paraît-il. Qu'est-ce qui a

bien pu se passer, selon vous, pour qu'ils laissent tomber Jean-Michel Giraud? D'autres intérêts en jeu?

Le MTC n'est plus, et depuis longtemps, le symbole de la puissance économique des grands Blancs pour parler cash. Ils ne sont présents nulle part au Club. Ceux qui pensent le contraire fantasment. Et Jean-Michel Giraud n'est sûrement pas leur représentant, ce n'est pas non plus pour cette raison que Pravind Jugnauth l'a ciblé.

Le premier crime de Jean-Michel Giraud, c'est d'être l'ami de Bérenger, mais peut-être plus grave encore, c'est d'être le pourfendeur des affairistes de tout poil qui ont vicié le sport hippique depuis plusieurs années et dont certains sont très proches du pouvoir.

\* Au-delà des intérêts des proches ou des financiers du pouvoir, une allégation faite par Jean-Michel Giraud dans une interview accordée à *Week-End*, dimanche dernier, porte sur les milliards, entre Rs 15 à 20 milliards, dit-il, qui vont dans les 'paris clandestins, dont l'Etat, qui veut tout contrôler, semble ne pas vouloir se préoccuper'. Giraud doit savoir de quoi il parle - tout comme la GRA et l'ICAC, non?

Tout le monde sait que les paris clandestins sont pratiqués à une grande échelle. Après la drogue, c'est sans doute la principale source de l'argent sale qui inonde le pays.

Certes, il n'est pas aisé de combattre une pratique à laquelle s'adonnent des milliers de Mauriciens mais l'apathie des régulateurs sur ce dossier est troublante, en effet.

Giraud en sait des tonnes, c'est pourquoi même les vrais faux propriétaires de chevaux ont voulu qu'il 'ferme sa grande gueule, mon cher'...

\* Faut-il aussi croire que la mafia a également fait main basse sur la politique?

Je ne peux pas le croire. Mais il y a lieu de s'inquiéter de la proximité des gens du pouvoir avec des caractères qu'il aurait fallu tenir à distance.

\* Toute comparaison avec la situation qui prévaut

**'Pravind Jugnauth a déjà fait la preuve qu'il est un homme politique redoutable; il faudrait, dans la conjoncture, qu'il se révèle homme d'Etat'**

au Sri Lanka par rapport à la situation économique depuis quelques temps serait probablement déraisonnable, mais au point où nous en sommes arrivés sur d'autres plans, nous courons le risque de toucher le fond très bientôt par rapport à la bonne gouvernance dans différents secteurs, malgré ce que nous rapportent les indicateurs mondiaux de la gouvernance. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Le pays va mal. Les Mauriciens, bon nombre d'entre eux en tout cas, sont angoissés. Ils ont perdu confiance dans les institutions. Ils se méfient de la parole publique. L'avenir leur paraît incertain. Ils ont peur pour leurs enfants.

« Tout le monde sait que les paris clandestins sont pratiqués à une grande échelle. Après la drogue, c'est sans doute la principale source de l'argent sale qui inonde le pays... Giraud en sait des tonnes, c'est pourquoi même les vrais faux propriétaires de chevaux ont voulu qu'il 'ferme sa grande gueule, mon cher'... »

Ce ne sont pas seulement les incertitudes économiques qui préoccupent certains Mauriciens, c'est surtout le délitement continu des valeurs qui sont le socle de la nation. Pravind Jugnauth a déjà fait la preuve qu'il est un homme politique redoutable; il faudrait, dans la conjoncture, qu'il se révèle homme d'Etat.

☞ Suite en page 11



# “Après la drogue, les paris clandestins sont sans doute la principale source de l’argent sale qui inonde le pays”

*‘Giraud en sait des tonnes, c’est pourquoi même les vrais faux propriétaires de chevaux ont voulu qu’il ‘ferme sa grande gueule’...*

☞ Suite de la page 10

\* L’opposition politique n’a pas fait bonne figure dans le récent sondage de Le Mauricien-Straconsult. C’est encore pire pour L’Entente de L’Espoir, et on voit difficilement Paul Bérenger s’agripper à cette alliance pendant très longtemps. Trouvera-t-il mieux ailleurs?

Le MMM est en très mauvaise posture depuis plusieurs années : cela est indéniable. Mais il faut se garder d’enterrer trop tôt un mouvement politique qui a autant contribué à la construction de cette nation. Le parti a décliné mais les hommes qui ont fait le parti sont partout dans les institutions du pouvoir même si certains sont méconnaissables aujourd’hui.

Il n’est pas interdit de penser qu’à la faveur de nouvelles circonstances politiques, un MMM rajeuni et revigoré pourrait encore tenir un rôle utile dans ce pays.

\* Certains observateurs politiques persistent à croire qu’il faut absolument une alliance PTr-L’Entente de L’Espoir pour contrer efficacement l’alliance au pouvoir. 2019 est pourtant un indicateur probant de ce qu’il adviendra en 2024, non?

Je ne suis pas impressionné par la force de frappe de L’Entente de L’Espoir telle qu’elle se présente aujourd’hui. Je continue à penser, plus que jamais, que l’enjeu principal demeure la désignation du challenger de Pravind Jugnauth, celui qui saura incarner l’alternance. Une nébuleuse à quatre têtes ne le peut pas.

Nos législatives sont des présidentielles. Les électeurs savent que ce qui compte avant tout, c’est la stature du Premier ministre, l’homme qui détient tous les leviers du pouvoir. L’image de Pravind Jugnauth s’est considérablement étoffée dans l’exercice du pouvoir. Par conséquent, plus personne ne parle de lui en faisant référence à *papa-piti*.

Pour espérer le déloger, l’opposition doit présenter un challenger de haute stature, expérimenté et crédible. Le temps passe, aucune nouvelle tête n’a émergé de



« Ce ne sont pas seulement les incertitudes économiques qui préoccupent certains Mauriciens, c’est surtout le délitement continu des valeurs qui sont le socle de la nation. Pravind Jugnauth a déjà fait la preuve qu’il est un homme politique redoutable; il faudrait, dans la conjoncture, qu’il se révèle homme d’Etat... »

« Le MMM est en très mauvaise posture depuis plusieurs années: cela est indéniable. Mais il faut se garder d’enterrer trop tôt un mouvement politique qui a autant contribué à la construction de cette nation. Il n’est pas interdit de penser qu’à la faveur de nouvelles circonstances politiques, un MMM rajeuni et revigoré pourrait encore tenir un rôle utile dans ce pays... »

« Pour espérer le déloger, l’opposition doit présenter un challenger de haute stature, expérimenté et crédible. Le temps passe, aucune nouvelle tête n’a émergé de manière convaincante jusqu’ici. Du coup, l’option Ramgoolam n’est plus un anathème chez des dirigeants de l’opposition... »

« Il faut rendre cette justice au gouvernement de Pravind Jugnauth : il a bien géré la crise sanitaire, il a évité le pire à l’économie. Il est vraiment dommage que cette bonne performance ait été entachée de scandales à relent de corruption... »

pays et a vidé notre tirelire. Il faudra bien, à un moment ou à un autre, passer à la caisse.

En attendant, les crises se succèdent. Nous n’avons pas fini de subir l’impact de la guerre en Ukraine. La conséquence immédiate est une inflation qui ronge fortement le pouvoir d’achat des ménages. Cela va durer encore un certain temps.

La formule adoptée par le gouvernement pour répondre à cette nouvelle crise me semble mal appropriée. J’aurais trouvé plus efficace un soutien financier ciblé aux familles les plus vulnérables plutôt que cette incitation à continuer de consommer les mêmes produits importés que l’on subventionne. Il faut changer de paradigme. L’enjeu mondial est désormais la sécurité alimentaire.

Que fera le gouvernement à l’arrivée des prochaines cargaisons de marchandises dont on peut prévoir qu’elles seront encore plus chères? Il faudrait, en ces temps de crise, que les actions du gouvernement se doublent d’une dimension pédagogique, d’un éloge à la discipline et aux sacrifices.

Mais le gouvernement est populiste et démagogue quand il faudrait être austère et rigoureux...

manière convaincante jusqu’ici. Du coup, l’option Ramgoolam n’est plus un anathème chez des dirigeants de l’opposition même si elle devrait créer quelques défections.

\* Ça fait plus de deux ans que l’actuel gouvernement dirige le pays, ça fait autant de temps qu’on est pratiquement en gestion de crises diverses - pandémiques et autres. Voyez-vous cela durer pour encore un bon bout de temps?

Il faut rendre cette justice au gouvernement de Pravind Jugnauth : il a bien géré la crise sanitaire, il a évité le pire à l’économie. Il est vraiment dommage que cette bonne performance ait été entachée de scandales à relent de corruption.

Il faut aussi reconnaître que le financement de la gestion de ces crises a encore aggravé l’endettement du

The Annual General Meeting of **Physical Education and Sports Employees Union** will be held at MTUC Office, James Smith St, GRNW, Port-Louis, on Saturday 04 June 2022 at 10.00 am.

## AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance.
4. President’s Report.
5. Motions/ amendments to Rules (if any).
6. Election of Office-Bearers (if any).
7. AOB.

**Mrs Henna Mihdidin**  
Secretary

Date: 12 May 2022





Arvind Saxena

former Chairman of the Indian  
Union Public Service Commission

**You can fool some of the people  
all the time, and all the people some  
of the time, but you cannot fool all  
of the people all of the time.**

-- Abraham Lincoln

**F**or the last several years I have been writing about how our skewed remuneration structure is disincentivising the study of pure sciences, mathematics, technology and medicine amongst our best youngsters. It is natural for young men and women to veer towards careers where they will earn the best salaries. We therefore see an increasing number of bright youngsters, who graduate from technical and medical institutes, go in for an MBA to better their earning potential. So, what do these technically qualified youngsters learn at business schools, which they have not been able to learn till their graduation?

After five years of engineering studies, I also joined an MTech program in Systems Management. This was an MBA program for engineers, designed after the Harvard Business School model, with added inputs of Operations Research, Systems Modelling, Project Management and Computer applications. It was an interesting program with a lot of case studies, discussions and presentation of reports. Corporate Social Responsibility and Ethics was one of the subjects, as a part of which we had to write a long paper on Business Ethics. I decided to write on 'Ethics in Advertising'.

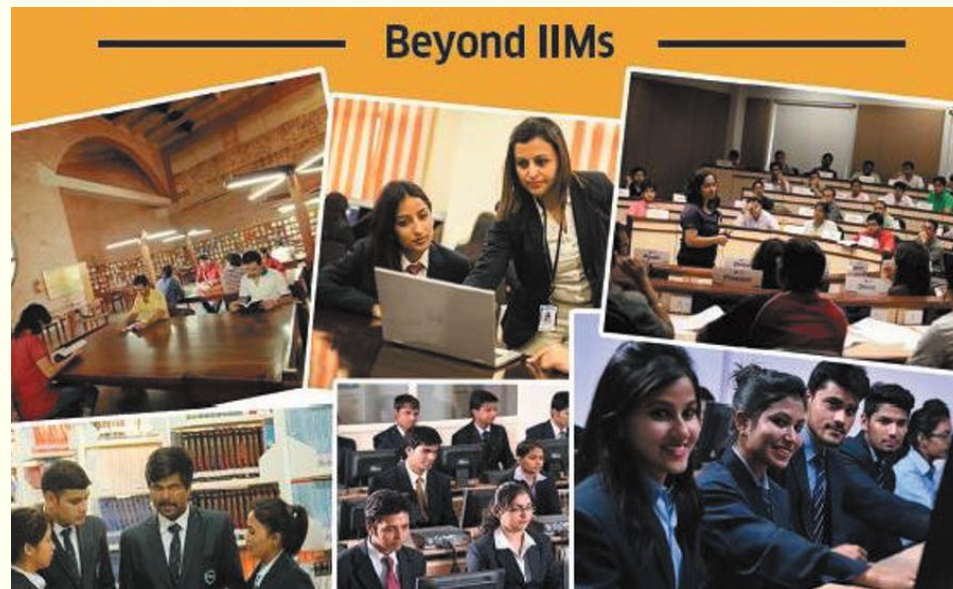
### Hidden Persuaders

I had recently picked up a book by Vance Packard from a roadside seller. The 'Hidden Persuaders' dealt with subjects like subliminal messaging and how advertisers, instead of projecting the qualities and worth of their products, were trying to play on the fears, anxieties, poor self-worth of the consumer and their need for keeping up with the Joneses, to pitch their products through human gullibility. I thought this was unethical because we had been told that in the true spirit of laissez-faire and a perfectly competitive market, you needed to build a more effective rat trap if you wanted to beat the competition.

So, my long paper dealt with these

# What they teach you in Business School

*If we divide jobs into technical and generalist jobs, engineers, doctors, educationists, agriculturists and scientists would fall in the first category while managers and administrators would come under the second*



## Beyond IIMs

**“In interactions with several directors and senior professors of leading management schools I have asked a simple question. “When a graduate engineer from our leading technology institutes like the IITs steps into the job market after four years she can, on an average, expect a pay package of around Rs 600,000 to Rs 1million, but after going through a two-year MBA program at an IIM the same youngster can command a package of up to Rs 5 million per annum or even more. My question is what do you teach them in two years that their market worth is multiplied five-fold?”**

issues and raised the spectre that if we did not stop these unfair practices, we would soon see a day when advertisers would try to defeat common sense, good education and rational behaviour with attempts to manipulate the minds of the consumer and sell worthless items, creating needs where none existed. A day would also come when a seller would knock you down with a whack on the head, or drug you, or blunt your rationality and, in a semiconscious state, make you sign the sale deed! We now see this happening all around us. Our minds are numbed by false claims of 'super efficiency'. No Sir, super efficiency is a chimera - it is a con.

Just as Value Engineering taught us that the importance of aesthetics has to be kept in mind, and a paper clip cannot replace a tie pin, societal needs cannot be discarded at the altar of the efficiency being promised by the endless supply of Apps being pushed down our throats. These Apps monitor all your habits and evaluate your vulnerabilities which, fed into sophisticated algorithms, reinforce preju-

dices and lead you into directions of behaviour without your realising that you have lost control of the stick and rudder. The scary part is that, with our minds taken over by these unscrupulous professional manipulators, we are demanding more and more of the junk - whether it is technology, food, entertainment or social media.

Going back to my long paper on Business Ethics, Prof Nader who taught the subject evaluated it at a high score of nine upon ten. As part of corporate policy, we knew the concepts of insider trading, creative writing of accounts and balance sheets, booking profits at opportune times, etc. Many of our guest faculty were notable gentlemen from the corporate world, both professional managers and promoters, who showed us how to bend regulations and work around the laws and rules of the country to maximize their profits.

Fortunately, non performing assets (NPAs) and their creative use, and influencing government policy through politicians, were still not standard business strategy,

or were considered too sensitive to be discussed with greenhorn management students. Seeing the business acumen and value systems of these top corporate honchos. I had no doubt that most of them would have evaluated my ethics paper at a comprehensive zero! So, I decided it was best I stay away from the idea of working for the business world. I chose another career path.

### The nation's wealth

Several years later, talking to a graduating class at an IIM convocation function, I stated that while – “we all know that business enterprises exist to maximise profits for the promoters, investors and the shareholders, we always forget one stakeholder. In addition to finance and human resources every enterprise also needs natural resources i.e., land, mine-rals, forest produce, water, air, wave length, etc. These natural resources are the nation's wealth – they belong equally to each and every citizen of this country – each and every one from the richest to the poorest – and equally!

“The common man entrusts these resources to his elected representatives, who are expected to invest them to maximise the returns for him, through use by private and public enterprise. Therefore, as professional managers while you must give your best to maximise your company's profits, you should not forget your obligation to the common man, the forgotten, faceless stakeholder, who is the owner of the resources you are using to generate those profits.

“You have to take only an equitable proportion out of the profits, even as you plough back remaining profits into the company or give out to society. In doing so, you are actually doing a good turn to yourself. Industry can grow only when you increase the purchasing power of more and more people. This can only happen by generating employment, giving fair wages and ensuring equitable distribution of the corporate profits.”

I told them that, having studied at a prestigious IIM, they were obviously intelligent, motivated and socially responsible youngsters, who should vow not to become compliant professionals. “Your pay and perks should not lull you into accepting the status quo. Do not create false needs and desires amongst gullible people – which will eventually include your own children someday. Look upon yourselves as leaders who will help society discern between real needs and artificially created needs. Remain committed that your work should not lead to exploitation of human, financial or natural resources. From your position of leadership, send out a subtle but firm message that you stand for the larger public interest. The claim that someone is wealthy because he works harder and is smarter is a false narrative. There is no justification for ostentatious living and profiteering.”

• Cont. on page 14



From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 191

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 4 April, 1958

• The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse. — Edmund Burke

# Cherries And Plums

By THUMB MARK II

1948 is a landmark in the history of the Mauritian working class: it was then that the Government of the island ceased to be a mere family affair, it was that very year which witnessed the emergence of proletarian leaders of the calibre of Rozemont, Seeneevassen, Forget, and Ramgoolam but, as expected, the rise of the working class was not unopposed. The plutocracy unleashed a formidable propaganda machine aimed mainly at disrupting the unity of workers, they had recourse to all means: ridicule, communal hatred, vilification and what not. From the workers' side too came a few replies and today, when the workers' efforts to get a better Constitution have been crowned with success, we reproduce from 'Advance' of 14 February 50 one of the greatest articles published in defence of the workers of Mauritius.

— B. Ramlallah, Editor

For some time now an intense and systematic propaganda is going on in the capitalist press against the new Constitution and against any progress towards the betterment of the working class generally. This propaganda takes all shapes, and it infiltrates even the ranks of the workers through people who are in the hands of those who are against any change in society. The whole movement is being directed from behind the scenes.

Where arguments are lacking, other methods are being adopted to bring down the prestige of those who are determined to see that justice is meted out to all alike. The capitalist press will go even to the extent of trying to hold the accredited leaders of the people to ridicule. This time the *Mauricien* and the *Cernéen*, the apostles of reaction and obscurantism, have begun their pilgrimage of hate together. *Cerisier*, writing in the *Cernéen*, says that "*Mon cher confrère (of the Mauricien) a fait naître brusquement en moi la vocation d'écrire*" and he is "*contraint de me soumettre à son impératif commandement*". But to complete this picture of the common consent and collusion, let us see further: "*Par l'une de ses fantaisies dont la nature est coutumière, nos prénoms à tous deux fleurent la grand opéra, et que mon patronyme, comme le vôtre évoque un spécimen fructueux et sympathique du règne végétal*".

After that the whole article is devoted to a wholesale attack against the awakening that is taking place among Indo-Mauritian workers. So we have it, you have given yourselves away Messrs Cherry Tree and Plum Tree, for your agreeing together and your similarity in outlook and make-up are not mere coincidences, but the inevitable alignment of the forces of reaction to delay the certain evolution of the workers. St Simon saw through it, and more practical men saw it after him and made it possible for history to be reversed in a manner that is not only distasteful to your class but also distressing to the big magnates who can no longer command the will of the needy.

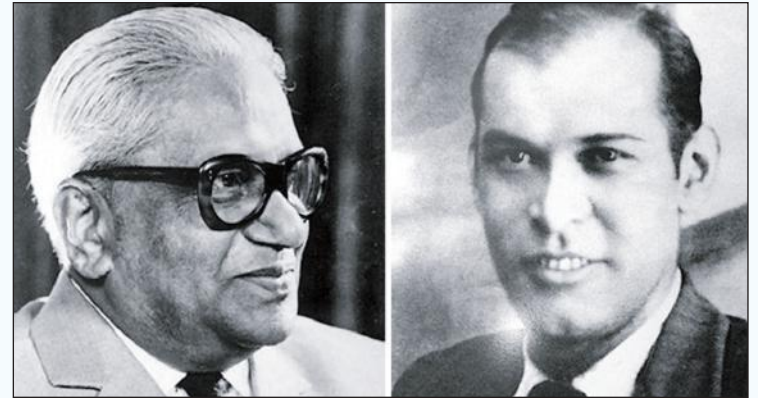
Your "*patronyme*", Mr Cherry, "*évoque un spécimen fructueux et sympathique du règne végétal*". You are quite right. At times you can think clearly in your own way. You can smell the decay that is going on in you. The miasma of the "*règne végétal*" that you and your likes have created with your midden of the Vegetable Kingdom must now be nauseating to you and must be tantalising your olfactory organs. Indeed, if you were to live long enough — if you do not die of complete coronary occlusion before that, something better than the "*thrombose coronaire*" you wished Dr Ramgoolam — it will suffocate you, and you would not have deserved better, because you are only a hireling of the same class as your master who has chosen to whip you with his money just so long as you can be of service to him.

The "*grand opéra*" is your scene of operation. For you and for those you are serving it is an opera; for the great mass exploited by your class it is an existence of drudgery, poverty and want and disease.

Your "*prénoms fleurent le grand opéra*". It is only natural. You belong to the same class, the class of minority which for the protection of its vested interests will mislead and misuse a brave people because they were not born of greedy silver spoons in their mouths. You have reason to congratulate yourself and sneer at our ragged fragments, for you have at least the advantage of wealth and power for the time being.

We know that your only interest in the underdog is how much you can get out of him, with the least necessary to keep him enchained in perpetual want. Our interest in him, to your great chagrin, is what we can do for him so that he may rehabilitate himself in society. You can see this cannot be a mere misunderstanding between us, as some would have us think. It is a question of ideologies. There is a vast gulf which separates us, a gulf in which thousands of our class have been drowned in their common struggle for economic and social uplift. Do you think you can bridge that, and teach us to accommodate ourselves with your ideas? No! A thousand times, no! You must realize once for all that only a radical readjustment of our social system will satisfy us. Your heartache is only beginning. Between you and the people there is a vast difference in outlook, just because the trends of events in the world and the conflicts of interests rule that the proletariat cannot accommodate itself with a society it is out to destroy, in order to build in its stead a world in which each will draw according to his need — not as in your scheme of things in which a few wallow in wealth and a large number of men and women is held in pawn.

You and your likes may be clever artificers, but we have seen through the game. You cannot sell us that puppy again. Your time is done. It is best that you leave it to the rising proletariat to clean the Augean stable you will surely leave behind you — your remnant of corruption, your social injustices, your inequalities, your nepotism and your grab and take practices. We want to build us a society which will not be your oyster. We want to renew humanity, and in this natural process your skeleton is required for the museum of the future, so that pos-



SSR &amp; Rozemont

terity can realize what monsters you had been, and how stupid we had been to allow you to usurp our heritage for so long.

You may attempt to ridicule honest men like Dr Ramgoolam, and your hirelings and snivellers can pour out all the wrath on them, but all these crafty devices will no longer avail you against the tidal wave of workers' awakening which will swallow you. You may fling epithets at us that will do no credit to anyone — which is unchristian, and you are presumably a devotee of Christ, the redeemer of mankind, the Christ that your class crucified in its scramble for power, because He stood for equality among men.

You may stick any labels on us. Our class is humanity itself, and we would not have worried about them, had it not been for the unwary you may entrap like a vampire in your hypocritical embrace. What child does not know the story of Little Red Riding Hood and the bear which grew big teeth to eat her the better. Your stomach is bursting with iniquities, and your brain is getting delirious with what is coming to you.

You and your masters tried to annex this country to South Africa where they are gradually sending their money, because in that subhuman continent human lives have no value and the South African negroes are looked upon as mere toys. There they will also find a readier market for their depredations.

When the cat is out of the bag, you attempt to turn the table on Indo-Mauritians. You must be taking people for simpletons; you are, indeed, doing wishful thinking and provoking the proletariat to do things that you would have liked it to do, so as to harass it the better. We are not your men; you have a few from our side who are helping you to do that work, but even they, with your press behind them and with their exaggerations and vilifying tongues, are not in a position to deliver the goods. They have been found out. You are, therefore, in a sad plight and in your anger you must be careful not to cut off your nose just to spite your face, for without my class your masters will go bankrupt. My class is the backbone of everything in Society, and without it all your big monopolies and trusts and combines, with their tentacles and vast wealth would be reduced to naught.

Plums and Cherries may agree, but the fight goes on relentlessly and fated to end to your disadvantage. Just to remind you: plums and cherries are commodities that the proletariat can devour. As for the trees, you know the wood cutter and his glistening axe. We can leave them to him. So, you need not flatter and din your tympanic bellies. That is the sound of the dying man. But meanwhile you can sing the swan song of a dying epoch.



# Inflation: Public Enemy Number 1

● Cont. from page 2

Many households (for instance pensioners) who assumed that inflation would remain under control, are now faced with much higher expenses without a commensurate increase in income.

It is therefore important that central banks are constantly vigilant and respond to accelerating inflation. Inevitably, this implies setting interest rates at an appropriate real level above the rate of inflation.

The real rate of interest rates can be calculated in several ways. The simplest and easiest way to calculate is by deducting the rate of inflation from the nominal interest rate.

Some African countries suffer persistent inflation problems, with rates much higher than in developed economies. The Zimbabwean inflation rate for the year to April 2022 accelerated to 96.4%, while Ghana's inflation rate was 19.4% over the same period.

Countries suffering high inflation experience exchange rate pressure, with declining currency values. The exchange rate of the currency will remain under downward pressure as long as high inflation persists. Owing to high inflation, investment in the country becomes unattractive. The demand for the currency therefore declines, which puts the exchange rate of the country with high inflation under pressure.

The Ghanaian currency has already depreciated by 18% against the US dollar this year. A further value decline is expected for the rest of this year.

Over the past year, the



Pic - yqgrocks.com

Zimbabwean RTGS dollar has lost more than half its value against the US dollar).

Owing to sharp currency depreciation, the domestic prices of imported goods and services in countries like Ghana and Zimbabwe have increased sharply and continue to increase each time the currency depreciates.

Consumers in those countries who earn income in local currency experience increasing difficulty to afford imported goods and services.

## The trust deficit

A problem in an environment of sustained inflation is that people do not trust the official published rate of inflation. Inflation rates are distrusted for several reasons. The first is a general distrust of government conduct. This results in a view that inflation rates are manipulated by government agencies responsible for their publication to report lower price increases than is actually the case.

Secondly, increased prices for goods such as fuel that receive considerable publicity, lead to perceptions of general price increases. This problem is linked to the fact that price increases are much more visible to consumers and attract more attention than price declines.

Lastly, inflation measures price increases on a cumulative basis, using each previous year's price level as the base for calculations. This implies that each previous year's inflated price level is used to measure the rate of inflation in the next year. Over time the cumulative effect of sustained inflation becomes quite large.

This can be explained in a different way. With a sustained inflation rate constant at 5% per annum, the intuitive perception is that prices will double every 20 years. In practice, however, under these conditions, prices will double every 14.4 years. Price increases therefore exceed the perceptions of consumers.

Given the negative impact of inflation, it is in the interest of all consumers that the authorities should always apply policies that prevent price increases or keep such increases to a minimum level.

Inflation does not make people wealthy, despite the fact the governments and borrowers enjoy benefits from inflation. Which is why the description that inflation is public enemy number 1 is so accurate.

**Jannie Rossouw, University of the Witwatersrand**

## To Our Readers

### Subscribe to the Mauritius Times

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Our production circumstances have changed since last year with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we have had to move to the digital platform. We have since March 2020 freely circulated the paper via WhatsApp and by email, besides making it available on our website.

Readers will no doubt appreciate that it takes a lot of time, hard work, money and the continued support of our contributors to produce the *Mauritius Times* - as we have done without interruption in these last 67 years.

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# What they teach you in Business School

● Cont. from page 12

In subsequent interactions with several directors and senior professors of leading management schools I have asked a simple question. "When a graduate engineer from our leading technology institutes like the IITs steps into the job market after four years she can, on an average, expect a pay package of around Rs 600,000 to Rs 1million, but after going through a two-year MBA program at an IIM the same youngster can command a package of up to Rs 5 million per annum or even more. My question is what do you teach them in two years that their market worth is multiplied five-fold and again why can't the BTech program be extended by a year and the MBA

education be packed into all standard engineering curriculum?" I have never received a convincing response, frankly because there is none.

## Anomaly in remuneration policy

In writing this article, my intent is not to demean the value of business schools, I only wish to highlight the huge anomaly in our remuneration policy which is destroying the real physical economy, where people work with hands and machines to produce tangible goods. If we divide all jobs into technical jobs and generalist jobs, the engineers, doctors, educationists, agriculturists, scientists, etc., would fall in the first category while managers and admini-

nistrators would come under the second. Professionals under the first category form the foundation of a developing economy. The second category is to service the activity of the first. There is no role, or need, for the service sector unless we have robust and dynamic physical economic activity in the country. Once we accept this, the remuneration systems strike you as blatantly upside-down. Better salaries in the services sector - banking, finance, IT, accounting, etc., - are absolutely contra-intuitive.

Unless we set this right, we will keep on seeing engineers and doctors doing MBA and joining the civil services or taking up managerial jobs in marketing, finance and

HR, etc., in the corporate world. The service sector can continue to do what it does best, including its role in administration and coordination, but the nation should attract the best young talent to the core physical economic activity. The best students should find the motivation to study the sciences and maths and be placed at the top of the wages pyramid. Why are we not able to do this? We need to find an answer urgently.

**Arvind Saxena, former Chairman of the Indian Union Public Service Commission**



# European outbreak of monkeypox: what you need to know

*There are some concerns of human-to-human transmission.*



**Michael Head**

University of Southampton

**F**our new cases of monkeypox have been reported in the UK, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to seven. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is urgently looking for the source of the outbreak.

The first case in the current outbreak was confirmed on May 6. But this is not the first time monkeypox has been reported in the UK. Three cases were also reported in 2021 and one in 2018. However, these infections are rarely seen in the UK and are overwhelmingly linked to international travel from endemic areas, including parts of west and central Africa.

On May 18 five cases of monkeypox were reported in Portugal, with investigations into 20 further suspected cases. On the same day, the Spanish health authorities reported eight suspected cases in men who have sex with men.

This is the largest monkeypox outbreak ever seen in Europe. It is not known if the cases are linked.

## Misnomer

Monkeypox, as the name suggests, was first found in laboratory monkeys in the late 1950s. However, scientists aren't sure if monkeys are the main animal

reservoirs (carriers of the virus), so the name may be a bit of a misnomer. The latest thinking is that the main reservoir is probably smaller animals, such as rodents.

Unlike COVID, monkeypox does not spread easily from human to human. It typically requires interaction with animals that carry the virus, or being in very close contact with infected people, or having contact with "fomites" (such as contaminated clothes, towels or furniture). Also unlike COVID, monkeypox is not known to spread asymptotically. However, the evidence on monkeypox is thin, and the current outbreaks will provide new knowledge around its impact and transmission.

Monkeypox belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox, but is less transmissible. People who catch it typically develop a fever and a distinctive rash and blisters. The disease is usually self-limiting, with symptoms disappearing after a few weeks. However, monkeypox can cause severe illness, with outbreaks typically showing a case-fatality rate (the proportion of people with the disease who die from it) of between 1% and 15%, with severe disease and death more likely among children.

## Sexually transmitted?

The UKHSA says that some cases in the May 2022 outbreak cannot be explained by recent international travel, suggesting that there has probably been some "community transmission". Four of the seven cases are in people who identify as gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men. A UKHSA epidemiologist tweeted that this is "highly suggestive of spread in sexual networks". The cases in Spain may also fall under similar consideration.

So the transmission here may be a little unusual compared with previous outbreaks. While there is a lot we don't know about monkeypox, we do know the virus



RGB Ventures / SuperStock / Alamy Stock Photo

can be transmitted via close contact, for example, including prolonged skin-to-skin contact.

There is no evidence that it is a sexually transmitted infection in the manner of HIV or chlamydia. It's more that, in the UK outbreak, the close contact during sexual or intimate activity may have been a key factor during transmission.

This may be the first time transmission of monkeypox via sexual contact or intimate activity has been documented. But the implications are not so significant in that we know close contact is required for transmission. The social dynamics around the transmission of infectious diseases means this finding may be most useful for the public health teams involved in "contact tracing" – finding other people who may have been exposed to the virus.

## Very low risks for the general public

The monkeypox risks to the wider UK public are extremely low, and the NHS has specialist units that focus on treating these sorts of tropical infections. And, thankfully, there are ways of bringing the virus to heel.

The US Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention highlights how the smallpox vaccine, cidofovir (an anti-viral drug), and vaccinia immune globulin can be used to control a monkeypox outbreak.

However, beyond the smallpox vaccine, there is no specific vaccine to protect against monkeypox. Some experts have suggested that stopping widespread vaccination against smallpox might have lowered population immunity against monkeypox, thus making cases and outbreaks more likely.

A 2019 meeting at Chatham House in London suggested that an unintended consequence of smallpox eradication could be that "emergent or re-emergent human monkeypox might fill the epidemiological niche vacated by smallpox".

However, these imported monkeypox cases and other tropical infections (such as Ebola, malaria and Lassa fever) indicate a wider burden of disease elsewhere in the world, typically in low-income countries with limited access to healthcare. It may be that in a post-pandemic environment, we should give more consideration to understanding the local and global implications of Lassa, monkeypox, Ebola and other rare but serious pathogens.

## Opinion

# Greater transparency

## ● Cont. from page 3

Listening to the PM in answer to a PQ in Parliament reeling out lengthy and detailed data and statistics about criminality, drug seizures and assets forfeited, all very useful, one cannot but wonder why for the sake of greater transparency, such information is not made periodically available as a matter of normal functioning on one or more appropriate government websites. For that matter why the independent regulatory authorities, even with restrictions where inquiries are ongoing, cannot provide every quarter or semester such information as normal practice? It would be mystifying in the 21st century if raw data and statistics of the type provided by the PM or other Ministers in Parliament could not be uploaded and updated regularly with the IT specialists at the disposal of authorities. Are there national security reasons that prevent greater transparency when all sectors of

the population are doing their best to survive or thrive. One can imagine the number of PQs that would be unrequited as a means of obtaining simple data and statistics pertaining to government action in most spheres.

On the same theme of greater transparency, it is understood that government through the state utility company CEB, may be reviewing shortly the terms, conditions and duration of contracts from IPP suppliers who have by now largely and handsomely amortized their investment costs to generate electricity since twenty years ago. We would not understand that contracts that were made public some years back by a previous government should be considered as confidential or too commercially sensitive for public disclosure. We trust this will not be the case and that public interest will prevail.

Jan Arden



1956-2021



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# What's the bottom line when it comes to weight loss?

**W**hen it comes to weight loss, many of us have dabbled in the latest diets. But whether you're cutting carbs or keeping to keto, new research from the University of South Australia shows that diet trends can cost more than your waistline and leave a hefty hole in your hip pocket.

In a new study, UniSA researchers have evaluated the affordability of popular diets, comparing them to the recommendations within the Australian Guide to Health Eating (AGHE), and the Mediterranean Diet, finding that costs of cutting your calories can vary by up to \$300 per week.

The research shows that the most cost-effective diet was modelled from the AGHE and adapted for weight loss through calorie restriction. This meal plan included all five core food groups and a range of affordable staple



items such as breads, pasta, and legumes, as well as lower amounts of animal products.

The diet plans that were most expensive typically restricted multiple food groups and included premium products such as organic produce, protein supplements, low-carbohydrate replacements, and high protein bread.

Lead researcher Associate Prof Karen Murphy says understanding the costs of weight loss programs is important, especially when people are facing financial struggles and reduced access to fresh produce amid Covid-19 and current floods.

"In Australia, around 12.5 million adults are overweight or obese. In our research, we assessed the

weekly costs of seven different meal plans and found that weekly grocery shopping of entire product units cost between \$345-\$625, which is substantially higher than more than what the average Australian spends on groceries each week.

"Understanding the costs behind the range of diets on offer is important as the financial feasibility of sticking to these programs may be questionable for certain people, including low-income earners.

"Additionally, there tends to be a misconception that consuming a healthy diet made up of the five key food groups, like the AGHE, is too expensive, which it's really not."

In addition to costs, UniSA PhD candidate, Ella Bracci, says nutrition is also key to starting a new diet. "It doesn't matter whether you chose keto or carb-free, weight loss is always linked to calorie intake -- if you reduce the number of calories you consume, you will lose weight," Bracci says.

Eating a healthy diet doesn't need to break the bank. "Shop for specials and mark-downs, buy in season or frozen, dried and canned produce, choose home-brand or non-premium products where possible, and buy in bulk where appropriate."

## Mindfulness can get wandering thoughts back on track

**E**veryone has times where their mind won't stay on task. For example, you might be listening to someone talk in a meeting or class and your mind wanders to your dinner plans. Notably, research suggests that 30% to 50% of our daily thoughts are spent on this kind of mind wandering, and that excessive mind wandering can lead to many negative outcomes like poorer performance on standardized tests and poorer recall of information.

"While zoning out for a few minutes during a meeting may not hurt, it can impact you negatively if it goes on for long periods of time," says Lynley Turkelson, a University of Cincinnati doctoral student and lead author of a new study on mindfulness and mind wandering published in the 'Journal of Cognitive Enhancement'.

Methods of practicing mindfulness vary but include practices such as breath-work and meditation.

For example, Turkelson says, one can practice mindfulness by paying attention to the experience of eating a favourite food: "You may start by noticing the smell of the food before you eat it, what it feels like as you bite into it, how it feels in your mouth, and the taste. Or perhaps you pay attention to the flow of breath in and out of your lungs or on the sensations you experience in various parts of the body."

"During Covid, people are facing even more distractions than normal, so it is important to find research-based ways to decrease mind wandering and improve attention," says Turkelson.



## Why do we see the 'sky' during the day, but the galaxy at night?

*The sky on other planets doesn't look the same as the sky on Earth does. And that's because of the different gases in Earth's atmosphere.*

**T**o put it simply, the reason the sky looks different to us between daytime and nighttime is mostly because of our atmosphere.

The atmosphere surrounds Earth, and extends from the ground to outer space. It's made of different gases including oxygen (which keeps us alive as we breathe it in), carbon dioxide (which we breathe out), methane (which is also in our farts), nitrogen and argon.

All these gases, as well as all solids and liquids, are made of molecules. Molecules are collections of atoms which are much too small for us to see, but are the basic building blocks of everything that exists. Importantly, different molecules have different combinations of atoms and come in different sizes.

A molecule's size plays a role in how the molecule interacts with light. Light from the Sun isn't one colour — it's made up of all the colours of the rainbow (which is why we see a rainbow when light behaves in a certain way).



Source: Pixabay

Some of the molecules in Earth's atmosphere are just the right size that the blue part of the light from the Sun bounces off them, scattering in different directions.

So when we look towards the Sun during the day (remembering that you should never look directly at the Sun), we see rays of light that have come from the Sun straight down to us.

But when we look away from the Sun we see the blue light rays scattering from

the part of the atmosphere we are looking at. That's why the sky is so bright — and blue — during the day.

### The galaxy at night

At night we see stars in a dark sky, and these stars make up our galaxy, the Milky Way. The Milky Way is made of a huge number of stars, including the Sun.

Compared with other stars, the Sun actually isn't that bright, but it looks very bright to us because it's much closer to Earth than other stars are.

At night, when your side of Earth is facing away from the Sun, the only light that reaches you is from other stars. This starlight also scatters off molecules in the atmosphere, but as there's less of it, not much scattering goes on.

This is why, at night when we're facing away from the Sun, we don't see the same thing as when we are facing the Sun during the day. Instead, we can look through the atmosphere and beyond at the big, dark expanse of space around us and the many, many faraway stars in our

galaxy.

### The sky on other planets

Other planets in our Solar System have different molecules in their atmosphere compared with Earth, which means their skies look different during the day and night.

The atmosphere on Venus, for example, is so thick you would never see the Sun — not even during the day when you were facing towards it. The stars are not visible at night, either.

Astronauts who are above our atmosphere, such as on the International Space Station or on the Moon, don't see the bright blue sky we see on Earth. Instead, they see the Sun as a large nearby star against a black sky.

And they can see the galaxy all the time.

**Hannah Schunker**

Lecturer of Physics,  
University of Newcastle

**David Pontin**

Associate Professor of Physics,  
University of Newcastle





## A civilized fight between husband & wife...

**Wife:** Twinkle Twinkle little star, you should know what **You** are and once **You** know what **YOU** are then the mental hospital isn't so far.

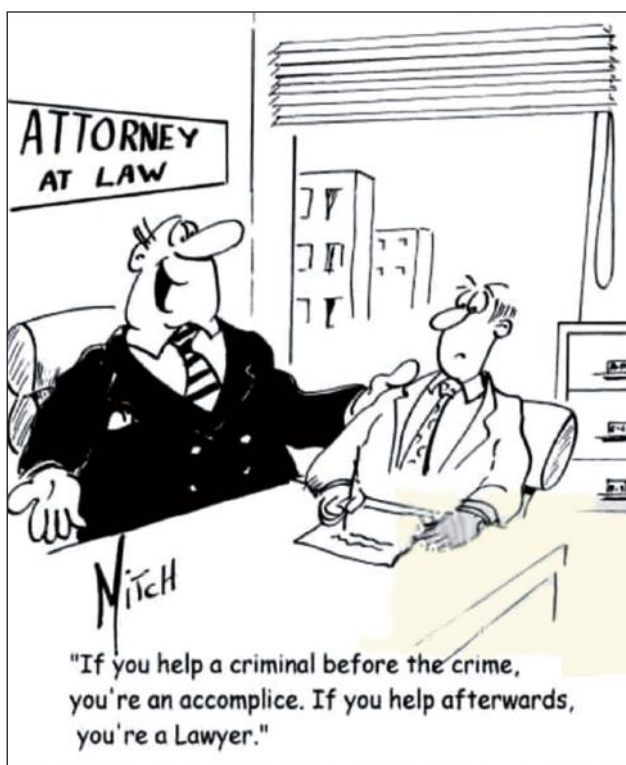
**Husband:** The rain makes all things beautiful — the grass & flowers too. If rain makes all things beautiful, why doesn't it rain on **you**?

**Wife:** Ross are red violets are blue; monkeys like you should be kept in the zoo.

**Husband:** Don't feel so angry; **you** will find me there too, not in cage but laughing at **you**.

\*\*\*

A couple goes to an art gallery. They find a picture of a naked woman with only her privates covered with leaves. The wife doesn't like it and moves on but the husband keeps looking.



The wife asks, "What are you waiting for?"  
The husband replies, "Autumn."

\*\*\*

### Friends

A woman didn't come home one night.

The next morning, she told her husband that she had slept over at a friend's house.

The man called his wife's 10 best friends.

None of them knew anything about it.

A man didn't come home one night.

The next morning, he told his wife that he had slept over at a friend's house.

So, the wife called her husband's 10 best friends.

8 of them confirmed that he had slept over and 2 said he was still there.

\*\*\*

A bus full of housewives going on a picnic crashed with no survivors.

Each husband cried for a week, but one husband continued for more than two weeks.

When asked, he replied miserably: "My wife missed the bus!"

\*\*\*

An intelligent wife is one who makes sure she spends so much that her husband can't afford another woman.

\*\*\*

Husband throwing knives on wife's picture.

All were missing the target! Suddenly he receives a call from her.

**Wife:** Hi, what are you doing?

His honest reply: Missing you.

\*\*\*

**Wife:** "I look fat. Can you give me a compliment?"

**Husband:** "You have perfect eyesight."

\*\*\*

Husband: Today is Sunday and I have to enjoy it. So I bought 3 movie tickets.

**Wife:** Why three?

**Husband:** 1 For you and 2 for your parents.

\*\*\*

### The pleasure of romance

The pleasure of romance in the dark is 10 times more than when the light is on.

Taking shower together with your partner increases your love by 20 times.

Now, please don't get excited, it's an advertisement to save water and electricity... Issued in the public interest.



\*\*\*

**Husband:** I want to go somewhere on holiday this year I've never been before.

**Wife:** Well, how about the kitchen?

\*\*\*

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

\*\*\*

A husband said to his wife, "No, I don't hate your relatives. In fact, I like your mother-in-law better than I like mine."

\*\*\*

### Wife called her husband

**Wife:** Honey where are you?

**Husband:** I'm at the bank.

**Wife:** Dear, please I need Rs 3000 to activate my Blackberry, 5000 to do my hair and 10,000 to buy a dress.

**Husband:** Sorry, I meant I was at the bank of a river. Do you want fish to cook?

\*\*\*

**Wife:** What is 10 years with me?

**Husband:** A second.

**Wife:** What is \$1000 for me?

**Husband:** A coin.

**Wife:** Ok, give me a coin.

**Husband:** Wait a second

## Short Stories

### The Sad Peacock

A stunning peacock with glittering feathers was dancing on a rainy day. As the rain was so pleasant, he was dancing with happiness and started singing. But as he tried singing, his rough voice reminded him of his shortcomings as a singer. So all the joy of the rain got beaten out of him as he dwelled on his flaw.

While the peacock was drowning in discontent in his ability to sing in the beautiful rain, a nightingale started singing with joy while relishing the rain on a hot summer day. When the melodious voice of the nightingale reached the sad peacock, it further reminded him about his flaw. He began wondering why he was cursed to

have such a horrible voice while the nightingale had such an appealing voice.

The forest goddess was doing her rounds in the forest that afternoon. She could see the whole forest was filled with joy from receiving rain on a hot sunny afternoon. However, as she was wandering in the woods, she noticed that the peacock was sobbing. It was baffling to the goddess that out of all the creatures in the forest, the peacock who loved dancing in the rain was in despair.

"Why are you upset in such wonderful weather?" the goddess asked the peacock.

The peacock complained about his hoarse voice and how unfortunate it was that he couldn't sing like a nightingale. "Why does the nightingale have such a melodious voice? But, I don't? It is so unfair that I cannot sing in this beautiful weather."

The forest god listened to the sad peacock and

calmly answered, "Everyone is special in their way. Everyone is born with unique traits and characteristics that help them shine in their way. Yes, the nightingale is blessed with a mellifluous voice, but you are also blessed with your unique dancing talent. You can dance gracefully, flaunting your beautiful glittering plumage. So do not compare yourself with others, rather see what you have and make the best out of it. You'll never be happy with yourself if you constantly compare yourself to others."

The peacock realized how silly he had been in comparing himself to others and forgetting his blessings. He realized that everyone was unique in some way or the other.

Moral: Self-acceptance is the first step to happiness. Make the best of what you have, rather than being unhappy about what you don't.



## Life's Lessons

# A lesson in humility from an old, illiterate village woman

After travelling long through a forest, Kalidasa reached a village. He felt very thirsty and looked around for water. He saw an old woman drawing water from a well. He went up to her and asked her for water. She agreed to give him water, but asked him to first introduce himself, "Who are you? Introduce yourself."

Now Kalidasa, who was a renowned and revered scholar of his time, thought that an ordinary and old village woman was not worthy of knowing who great Kalidasa was. So, he said, "I am a traveller."

But the old lady replied, "No, you cannot be a traveller. In this world there are only two travellers – the Sun and the Moon. Both rise and set every day and keep travelling perpetually. Who are you?"

Thirsty Kalidasa said, "Alright then,

treat me as a guest."

The old lady promptly replied, "No you cannot be a guest, son. In this world there are only two guests – Youth and Wealth –, both are temporary and do not stay even if you plead with them a million times, and hence can only they be called as guests. Who are you?"

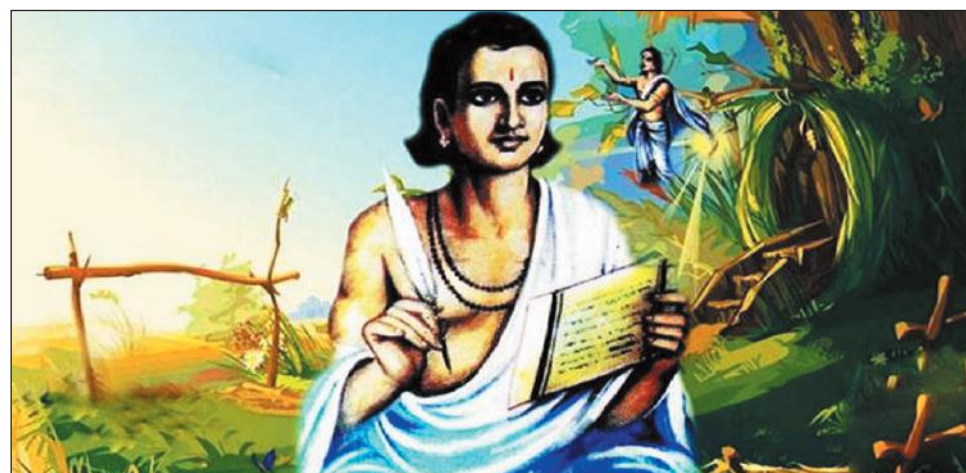
Thirsty, but now quite intrigued with the profoundness of this old lady, Kalidasa said, "I am a tolerant person, mother."

Now the old lady replied, "You don't quite look tolerant, old man. In this world only two truly know the meaning of tolerance -- Bhoomi (Earth) and Tree. How much ever you stamp the earth or throw stones at the tree (for the fruits), both continue to nurture us. Who are you?"

With unquenched thirst, Kalidasa was increasingly becoming irritable. He said, "Fine then, consider me a stubborn person."

The lady smiled and said, "No my child, you are not that stubborn. There are only two truly stubborn personalities -- our nails and our hair. We keep cutting them non-stop, but they continue to grow."

Kalidasa had been patient so far, but now in anger he said, "Alright, I am a fool."



Now the lady gave a wide smile and said, "There are only two kinds of fools in this world -- a King who rules without having any capability or knowledge, and a Minister who is a sycophant to such a King and lavishes praises on such a useless king."

Kalidasa realised that he had been outsmarted by an old, illiterate village woman. In complete awe and humility, he fell at the feet of the lady, saying, "O mother! How ignorant I was to think that I know myself. I am ashamed of myself. Pardon my ignorance. Show mercy, and grant me water, I beg of you."

When he touched her feet and then got up, whom did he see? Mata Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning and Wisdom.

She said, "Kalidasa, you are wise. But only if you know yourself do you become a true Manushya (human being). Your ego has overshadowed your achievements. You are educated, but you are also given to arrogance. Hence, I had to come to guide you."

**The mark of a true human being is not his knowledge, but his humility. Your intellect, your education is of no use if it only feeds your ego.**

## This Crazy World

# Some Truisms

If interest rate goes up: 'How the poor could afford a house, car for themselves?'

If interest rate comes down: 'How will elders earn interest from the bank?'

If foreigners invest in our country: 'They are taking away our wealth as profits/dividends.'

If domestic company invests outside: 'Our wealth shifts for the development of outsiders.'

If tax rates are increased: 'The government is robbing people.'

If tax rates are lowered: 'The government is trying to help the rich.'

If GDP grows: 'The government is working primarily for the big corporates.'

If GDP contracts: 'There is no job creation.'

If currency strengthens: 'Our exports get impacted.'  
If currency weakens: 'Our import bill has gone up.'

If food prices go up: 'Masses are suffering.'  
If food prices come down: 'Farmers are suffering.'

If stock market comes down: 'The economy is in a mess.'

If stock market goes up: 'It's not a true measure of economy; only corporates are being supported.'

If corporate tax rates are increased: 'Government is penalizing private enterprise.'

If corporate tax rates are cut: 'The government is only trying to boost the profitability of corporates.'

So, heads I win, tails you lose.

# Corporate Joke

Agency: Sir, we found three candidates as per your requirements. How do you want their placements, sir?

Managing Director: Put about 100 bricks in a closed room. Then send the candidates into the room and close the door, leave them alone and come back after a few hours and analyse the situation...

1. If they are counting the bricks, put them in Accounts Department.
2. If they are recounting the bricks, put them in Auditing.
3. If they messed up the whole room with the bricks, put them in Engineering.
4. If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order, put them in Planning.
5. If they are throwing the bricks at each other, put them in Operations.
6. If they are sleeping, put them in Security.
7. If they broke the bricks to pieces, put them in Information Technology.
8. If they are sitting idle, put them in Human Resources.
9. If they say they have tried different combinations yet not a single brick has been moved, put them in Sales.
10. If they have already left for the day, put them in Marketing.
11. If they are staring out of the window, put them in Strategic Planning, and...
12. If they are talking to each other and not a single brick has been touched, congratulate them and put them in Top Management.

# What's do these words have in common?

1. Banana
2. Dresser
3. Grammar
4. Potato
5. Revive
6. Uneven
7. Assess

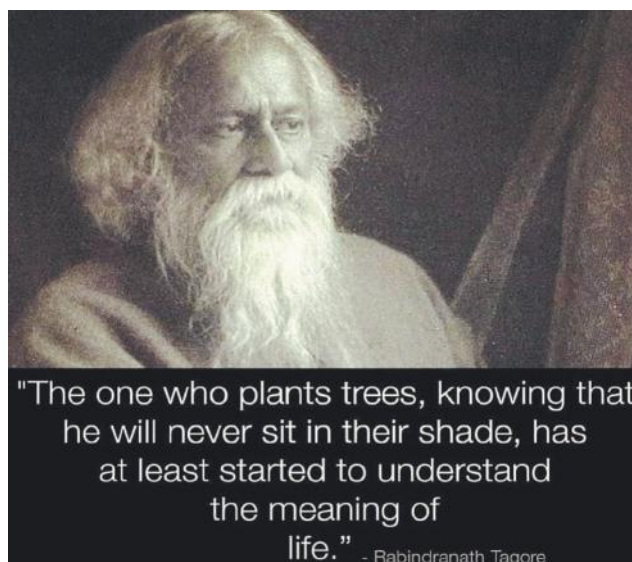
Have you already given up? Give it another try...

Look at each word carefully.

You'll be surprised when you discover the answer.

No, it's not that they all have at least two double letters.

**Answer:** In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.



"The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life." - Rabindranath Tagore





# Surprising Uses for Everyday Household Products

**S**odium bicarbonate can absorb odours in your fridge or under your armpits. It's only mildly abrasive. That means it'll clean your dishes, tub, or teeth without scratching them. Mix with water and swish some around if you have morning sickness or throw up after cancer treatment. It can wash away stomach acid that might hurt your teeth. Here are more tips on how to use baking soda:

**General cleaner.** Add 4 tablespoons of baking soda to 1 quart of water, or sprinkle some on a wet sponge.

**Mouth rinse.** Mix 1 teaspoon of baking soda with 4 cups of water.

**Ease itchiness from poison ivy or bug bites.** Mix with water to make a paste and put it on your skin.

**Deodorant.** Pat some under your arm.

**For fresh laundry.** Add a 1/2 cup of baking soda to the wash.

## Vinegar and your body

Studies show 1-2 tablespoons of vinegar (white or apple cider) might help control your blood sugar after a meal. It can't fix an unhealthy diet or replace your medicine if you have type 2 diabetes, but it may ease symptoms. Don't drink large amounts because that might hurt your stomach. Talk to your doctor before you use vinegar on your head or body. It may soothe dandruff or itchiness from psoriasis, but it could also bother your scalp or skin.

## Vinegar and your home

Use distilled white vinegar to clean glass or:

**Kill food germs.** Leave surface visibly wet for 10 minutes to kill salmonella. Vinegar isn't effective on most other viruses and bacteria.

**Clean pet stains.** Mix 1/2 cup vinegar with 1 quart of water. Dab the area and let sit for a few minutes. Test a small area first. Vinegar can fade colours.

**Get rid of sweat stains.** Spray the armpits or collars. Let soak for 24 hours in cold water before washing.

**Clean your coffee pot.** Use a 1:1 mix of vinegar and water, like 3 cups of water

and 3 cups of vinegar. Run through your pot like you would coffee.

**Take away soap scum.** Clean your shower head or curtain with full-strength white vinegar.

**Get rid of odours.** Place cups with 1-2 ounces of vinegar around your house.

## Petroleum Jelly

This oily moisturizer can soothe dry skin, including your nails and cuticles. Put it on small cuts and scratches to help them heal faster. It also treats diaper rash and might ease symptoms of atopic dermatitis or psoriasis. There's some evidence that it works better than other home remedies to suffocate adult lice. But it won't kill their eggs. You'll need a special medicine to do that.

## Bleach

Chlorine bleach -- the kind that's not safe for coloured clothes -- is a cheap and strong way to kill germs. It can tackle the bacteria that make your toilet bowl pink and the virus that causes Covid-19. To make your own solution, mix 4 teaspoons of bleach with 1 quart of room temperature water. Open windows and doors, and keep your eyes and skin covered. Wipe the surface and leave it visibly wet for at least 1 minute. Make a new batch every 24 hours. Always use bleach exactly as directed. Never mix it with another cleaning product. This can make toxic fumes.

## Hydrogen peroxide

A few drops of hydrogen peroxide can soften earwax build-up. Rinse with half hydrogen peroxide and half water to kill the bacteria that cause gingivitis. Try not to swallow any. You'll probably be OK if it's just a little bit, but large amounts can hurt your stomach or make you throw up. Don't use it to clean wounds. It does kill bacteria, but it may worsen scarring or cause inflammation. Use soap and water instead.

## Rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol

It can kill germs, but it evaporates really fast. The wetness needs to linger for at least 30 seconds to kill germs. That's why it's best to use rubbing alcohol on



small, hard surfaces. That includes your smartphone, computer keyboard, remote control, or anything with a touchscreen. Just don't soak your electronics or get liquid near any openings.

## Ammonia

You can use household ammonia by itself, but it's usually found in other cleaning products. That includes glass cleaner. It evaporates really fast -- that's how it gives your windows a streak-free shine. To clean your oven, put 1/2 cup of ammonia inside a glass container. Leave inside your cold oven overnight. The fumes will break down the grease and make it easier to wipe off later. Don't turn your oven on. Ammonia can catch fire. Never mix it with bleach because a dangerous gas can form

## Mayonnaise

Full-fat mayonnaise can get rid of cloudy water stains on your wood table. All you do is spread the mayo out and let it sit for several hours. Let it soak overnight for old stains. Cover it up if you think your pets will lick it. Do it again if you need to.

Some people use mayonnaise to kill head lice. But there's no evidence that this works.

## Virgin coconut oil

It's a natural moisturizer. It's also anti-inflammatory and antibacterial. Experts think that might be why it seems to ease certain skin conditions, like atopic dermati-

tis. Just don't slather it all over your face, especially if you have oily skin. It might clog your pores. There's some evidence that coconut oil can protect your hair from damage if you put it on before you shower. It's also a natural way to take off your eye makeup.

## Olive oil

This kitchen staple might help a cut heal faster, but you probably don't want to use it as an all-over moisturizer. It's made mostly of oleic acid. Studies show that can break down certain layers of your skin.

## Baby oil

It's best to use it on places like your legs, hands, and feet. It might clog your pores if you put it on your face. You can also use it to ease the dryness and itchiness that comes with dandruff or scalp eczema. Let the baby oil soak on your head for about an hour. Then run a comb through your hair before you wash it.

## Ketchup

This popular condiment can also shine your silver. The secret is the acetic acid. That's another name for vinegar, which breaks down the chemicals that make silver look dull. Just put some ketchup in a dish and drop your silver in. Make sure it's fully covered. Let it sit for 5-10 minutes. Wash off the ketchup with warm water and dry with a cloth.

*Medically Reviewed by Jennifer Robinson, MD - WebMD*

## Health

### What Ayurveda says about leaving hair oil overnight; is it healthy or harmful?

**O**iling your hair has always been considered an important part of hair care routine and our mothers and grandmothers have always believed oil massages are the secret behind long and luscious hair. However, our elders remain divided on whether or not to leave oil in the hair overnight. The traditional wisdom of leaving hair oil overnight might be different from what Ayurveda

suggests. The ancient medicinal practice recommends washing your hair soon after oiling your hair, reports Parmita Uniyal of Hindustan Times.

Ayurveda expert Dr Rekha Radhamony says leaving hair oil overnight can aggravate Kapha and should be avoided. "One should not leave hair oil for more than 30 to 45 minutes, depending on your dosha imbalances. As soon as you finish oiling, you must take a head shower," suggests the Ayurveda expert.

Dr Radhamony says this piece of advice comes from Ayurveda practices of Kerala as it's the state that's closest to the ancient medicinal practice than others.

The Ayurveda expert says there are a lot of practices today that are termed as traditional but are more of "western-influenced wisdom". She gives an example of



teaming raw salads with lunch which was never a practice in India before the British rule. Ayurveda generally recommends warm and cooked food for all, especially those with weak Agni or digestive fire, and doesn't promote eating salad with food. According to Ayurveda, the best time to eat salads is noon and summer season, when the digestive fire is good.



## Avinash Mukherjee on avoiding to indulge in social media too much

*'I'm a very private and reserved person. I have drawn my limits'*

Over the past few months, we have witnessed several actors coming forward to talk about the pressures and perils of social media and how it is saddening to know how some casting decisions are made on the popularity of the same. However, Avinash Mukherjee, who is best known for his roles in shows like *Balika Vadhu* and *Sasural Simar Ka 2* opened up on how it is necessary to draw a line on social media and how he doesn't indulge in the pressure, reports India Forums.

Talking about it with ETimes TV, Mukherjee said, "Social media has been helpful for many actors to get work during the pandemic but I feel it isn't a pivotal criterion for TV actors. Having a certain number of followers is an important aspect when it comes to reality shows, online commercials, brand marketing and looking at doing digital content but not for someone who has been working in the TV industry as their audience is not necessarily the ones who are glued to the online world."

He added, "social media is a great tool to get work and to keep in touch with your fans but I'm a very private and reserved person. So, when it comes to social media, I have drawn my limits. I'm



not there 24\*7 and give out only limited information."

Apart from currently starring in *Sasural Simar Ka 2*, Mukherjee was last seen in *Shakti... Astitva Ke Ehsaas Kii*.

### 'Sasural Simar Ka 2'

## Vibha Bhagat opens up, says 'could only afford one meal'



*Sasural Simar Ka 2* actress Vibha Bhagat spoke about her condition in an interview and revealed that there was a time in her life when she was personally and professionally affected when she did not have work for two years. Not only this but she even opened up how there came a point when she had funds to arrange just one meal for the day.

Vibha told ETimes, "The last two years have been the toughest

est for me, both professionally and personally. I lost my father and I wasn't getting work too. Due to which not only I was financially broke but emotionally too was shattered. A time came when I could only afford one meal a day maybe a fruit or a packet of biscuits. But we actors never talk about things like these because we chose a life like this. But finally, after two years, *Sasural Simar Ka* happened."

Further, she went on to

speak about how she managed to deal with the situation and said, "Those two years taught me what exactly I want from my life. I focused on myself by doing self-grooming and gave time to myself. I have PCOS and thyroid so I ensured that the levels stay normal for that I did three hours of work-out every day at home and that kind of helped me get my spark back too! I painted, meditated, and cooked, did everything which will make me feel good about myself and my existence."

Vibha said that her friends played a big role in motivating her during the difficult phase of her life when anyone could have given up. She even got anxiety attacks but somehow managed to rise through all that.

Vibha began her career with stand-ups, and theatre and went to enter the Punjabi television industry. After the same, she got a chance in the Hindi TV industry and revealed that she had to 'fight a lot of to carve my own niche.'

### YOUR STARS

#### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your professional track record appears to be promising. You may be given a commanding position at work. Lady luck appears to be on your side in your romantic life. You may fall in love with someone interesting. This could mean the beginning of a blossoming romance.

**Lucky Numbers:** 20, 22, 24, 26, 30, 38

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

On the home front, peace and harmony may prevail. However, things do not appear to go as planned on the professional front. At work, laziness may get the better of you. Maintain your focus. Your companion may require emotional assistance. In times of need, do not hesitate to offer them your support.

**Lucky Numbers:** 12, 19, 25, 30, 36, 40

#### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

On the financial front, do not make hasty decisions. Domestic quarrels may have a negative impact on children's behaviour. Maintain your composure in such situations. Your love life needs to be spiced up. Warmth in the relationship is likely to be restored by engaging in fun activities together.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 6, 10, 18, 30, 31

#### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your financial situation appears to be promising. You might be able to splurge on yourself. To keep the peace at home, avoid getting into quarrels and arguments. You may be unable to devote enough time to your romantic life. This may irritate your partner, causing them to make rash judgments. Make every effort to save the bond.

**Lucky Numbers:** 11, 13, 16, 22, 24, 27

#### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Married couples are likely to enjoy some alone time and intimacy. Children's activities may provide joy. However, your financial situation is likely to be moderate. Spending irresponsibly need to be curtailed. Your love life too, is likely to have some difficulties. To restore normalcy to your relationship, you must put an end to your quarrels.

**Lucky Numbers:** 18, 20, 24, 26, 30, 33

#### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Investments made in the past may yield good returns. It may allow you to indulge in luxuries. Your romantic relationship is set to improve. Some of you may plan for a lifelong bond. The approval of both sets of parents is likely. On the family front, though, difficult times are predicted. Maintaining your composure may aid your success.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 9, 15, 17, 20, 27

#### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Your health may be a source of concern. Recurring ailments are likely to cause inconvenience. Your family life may be disrupted. You may be praised for your time-management abilities. Your love life is likely to suffer as a result of your hectic work schedule. Your significant other may be clamouring for your attention.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 11, 16, 20, 33, 39

#### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Your financial situation is likely to remain strong. You may make profits from a new family business. Spending time with family and friends may provide a much-needed break from a demanding schedule. On the other hand, your romantic life may be blossoming. Your relationship is likely to progress to the next level.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 6, 9, 17, 26, 31

#### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

On your romantic front, happiness and warmth are likely to reign supreme. You might be able to share intimate moments with your partner. Your professional life, on the other hand, may be turbulent. You are likely to fall behind on your assignments. A monetary benefit may slip through your fingers.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 7, 8, 14, 23, 24

#### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

If you leave assignments unfinished, it may have a negative impact on your career. Your health may require attention. If you do not seek medical care for a minor ailment, it is likely to worsen. Property deals are likely to be profitable and beneficial. Students may fall short of expectations.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 4, 8, 9, 20, 30, 35

#### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Due to your spendthrift nature, your financial situation is likely to be precarious. Domestic disagreements are likely to keep the environment tensed. Make an attempt to handle the situation calmly in order to restore domestic peace. Your love life may shine brilliantly. Singles have the opportunity to start a new relationship.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 4, 11, 12, 21, 35

#### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You are likely to have a successful run on your professional front. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle may begin to have an impact on your overall wellbeing. On the home front, relatives may interfere in family issues, causing domestic strife. Students may lack focus on studies, hampering their grades.

**Lucky Numbers:** 14, 15, 18, 20, 26, 30



# India takes over the Cannes Market

India is the country of honour at the Cannes Film Market and consequently a massive contingent from the country is descending upon the Croisette reports Naman Ramachandran and Patrick Frater of Variety.

That stands in contrast with the attendance from other parts of Asia, further East. Attendance of participants from Hong Kong and China is massively down compared with pre-Covid times. Korean companies are back in respectable numbers. The solid attendance of Korean executives also reflects the selection of Korean films across multiple sections of the festival.

The Covid era, however, has coincided with a more generalized slowdown of the Chinese film market and a politically directed retrenchment towards local content. That makes it difficult to quantify China's loss to Cannes.

But it is perhaps more than symbolic that Wednesday's Cannes Market opening party, is this year sponsored by India. China had been its sponsor for several years.

Anurag Thakur, India's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, will inaugurate the Indian Pavilion in the presence of actor R. Madhavan, whose directorial debut "Rocketry" is premiering at the market, and a plethora of



actors including Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Pooja Hegde, Tamannaah Bhatia and Aditi Rao Hydari. Akshay Kumar was due to be at the pavilion inauguration, but contracted Covid.

India will be prominently visible throughout the festival this year. Deepika Padukone is on the jury for the main feature film competition. Oscar-winner A.R. Rahman's directorial debut, "Le Musk," is premiering at the market's Cannes XR program. Indian filmmaker Shaunak Sen's Sundance grand jury prize winning documentary "All That Breathes" is showing as a special screening. And Indian auteur Satyajit Ray's "The Adversary" (1970) and

Aravindan Govindan's "The Circus Tent" will be screened at the festival's Cannes Classics strand.

TV star Helly Shah will walk the red carpet for L'Oreal and also promote her film debut "Kaya Palat." Multihyphenate Kamal Haasan will be present to promote his new film "Vikram." There will be plenty of first looks unveiled, including for Shyam Benegal's "Mujib: The Making of a Nation," the biopic of late Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, for which top Bangladeshi star Nusrat Imrose Tisha is expected alongside her filmmaker partner Mostofa Sarwar Farooki. Bangladeshi director/producer

Abu Shahed Emon is also due at Cannes. First looks are also being unveiled for Pushan Kripalani's "Goldfish" and Sandeep Singh's "Safed."

"When you are a country of honour at the world's largest film market you are on the radar of the Western world — it could be because of your creativity and international appeal, or maybe because of business potential and mass audience reach. We seem to be better-known for the latter," said Samir Sarkar, who is co-producing Cannes' La Fabrique project selection "Starfruits" via his Indo-Singaporean outfit Magic Hour Films.

## From Shanaya Kapoor to Suhana Khan

# Star kids who are soon making their Bollywood debut

From Shah Rukh Khan kids to legendary actress Sri Devi's daughter, Bollywood is ready to welcome talented star kids who will be making their Bollywood debut. Take a look at the star kids who are about to make their Bollywood debut as reported by HerZindagi!:

### 1. Khushi Kapoor

Khushi Kapoor, the daughter of late actress Sridevi and film producer Boney Kapoor, and sister of actress Janhvi Kapoor, is all ready to set foot in Bollywood. According to reports, she will be starring opposite Agastya Nanda and Suhana Khan in the upcoming Netflix live-action musical film "The Archies".

### 2. Shanaya Kapoor

Shanaya Kapoor, the daughter of actor Sanjay Kapoor, will be making her acting debut with "Bedhadak" which will also star Gurfateh Pirzada and Lakshya Lalwani. The upcoming film "Bedhadak" was announced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions in March, 2022.

### 3. Agastya Nanda

Agastya Nanda, grandson of Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan, and the son of Shweta Bachchan and Nikhil Nanda, Agastya Nanda, will make his Bollywood debut



with Suhana Khan and Khushi Kapoor in Zoya Akhtar's Netflix live-action movie "The Archies."

### 4. Aryan Khan

The elder son of talented actor Shah Rukh Khan, Aryan Khan will apparently make his acting debut in Karan Johar's "Student of The Year 3".

However, in a 2019 interview with David Letterman, SRK said, "I don't think he has what it takes (to be a film star), and he realises it himself. But he's a good writer. I think wanting to be an actor has to come from within. But I think I realised it from him when he came to me and said, 'I don't think I want to act.' His issue was, which I think is practical and honest, he said,

'Every time, I'll be compared to you, and I don't want to be in that position'."

### 5. Suhana Khan

Suhana Khan, daughter of actor Shah Rukh Khan is all set to make her much-anticipated Bollywood debut. She will be starring in Zoya Akhtar's Netflix live-action movie "The Archies," along with Agastya Nanda and Khushi Kapoor.

### 6. Ahaan Panday

Ahaan Panday, the nephew of actor Chunky Panday and cousin of actress Ananya Panday, may also make his debut in the near future. According to media reports, he will make his acting debut in a Yash Raj Films production.

## Appartement à louer - long terme



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Tel: 57809413 - 57530881

## Cinema Sirsa

Castel - Tel Nos - 6867356 / 6971613 / 59119396 / 57069330

## Jayeshbhai Jordaar

(Featuring Ranveer Singh and Shalini Pandey)

Friday 20 May 2022 & Saturday 21 May 2022 - 13:15  
Sunday 22 May 2022 - 16:15  
Monday 23 May 2022 - 13:15/20:15

## NEW TAMIL MOVIE: DON

Friday 20 May 2022 - 20:15 (Debut)  
Saturday 21 May 2022 - 20:15  
Sunday 22 May 2022 - 13:15  
Tuesday 24 May 2022 - 13:15/20:15

Please note that ticket prices are Rs225 on a uniform basis for both adult and child.

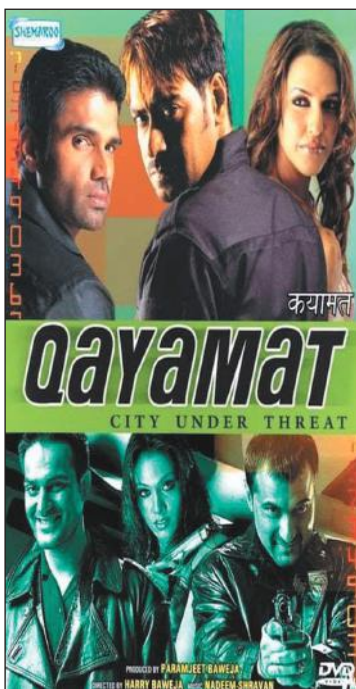


## CINE 12

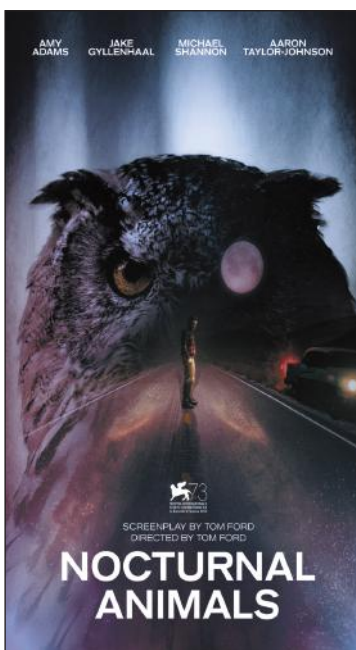
vendredi 20 mai - 21.15



samedi 21 mai - 21.00



dimanche 22 mai - 21.15



## Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 20 mai

## MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
09.00 Doc: Great Apes  
09.45 Local: Voyage Au Feminin  
10.30 Mag: Check In  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
13.15 Local Production  
14.30 D.Anime: The Twisted...  
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Contre  
15.38 D.Anime: Briko  
17.10 Serial: Backstage  
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Surya Pura  
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa  
Vaishnodevi  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Les Grands Noms Inter...  
21.10 Serial: Pulse  
23.00 Le Journal  
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan  
11.18 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai  
12.00 Film: Than Than Gopal  
13.59 Mag: DDI Mag  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.26 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin  
16.47 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin  
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.30 Serial: Chhanchhan  
18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods...  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.00 Serial: Dil Ruba  
20.44 Local: Anjuman  
21.10 Local: Urdu Programme -  
22.05 DDI Live

## MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing  
07.58 Doc: Secrets Des Plantes  
08.46 Doc: Castles  
10.10 Doc: The Côte D'Azur  
12.17 Mag: Red Carpet  
13.12 Doc: Secret Des Plantes  
14.10 Doc: In Quest Of Carribous  
16.40 Mag: Eco India  
18.03 Doc: Fast Fashion  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.33 Doc: Expedition Yangtze  
20.45 Doc: World Heritage  
20.48 Doc: Nos Cinq Sens  
21.41 Doc: Volcano Stories  
22.08 Doc: Guardians Of Nature  
23.00 Doc: Fast Fashion  
23.42 Mag: World Stories  
23.54 Doc: World Famous Writers  
00.27 Mag: Euromaxx  
00.49 Doc: Expedition Yangtze  
01.46 Doc: World Heritage

## Cine 12

01.28 Film: The Shallows  
03.31 Film: Extortion  
05.16 Tele: Marimar  
05.39 Tele: Rubi  
06.45 Film: The Shallows  
09.00 Serial: Timeless  
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.00 Serial: Blacklist  
11.46 Film: Extortion  
13.31 Tele: Marimar  
14.45 Film: The Shallows  
16.40 Serial: Timeless  
17.24 Serial: Rookie Blue  
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
19.34 Serial: Mustangs FC  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Zoo  
21.15 Film: L'Enfant De La Tempete  
22.54 Tele: Marimar

## Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Baap Numbri Beta  
Dus Numbri  
Star: Kader Khan, Shakti  
Kapoor, Jackie Shroff Farha  
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
12.22 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
13.01 / 22.00 - Agnihera  
13.32 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.00 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.25 Film: Loafer  
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Pramod  
Moutho, Dinesh Anand  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.28 Bhakharwadi

samedi 21 mai

06.22 D.Anime: Gon  
06.45 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...  
06.57 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...  
07.19 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...  
07.37 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien  
08.19 Serial: Les Copains Carlins  
08.33 D.Anime: Garfield Originals  
08.36 D.Anime: Cat & Keet  
08.46 D.Anime: Les Triples  
09.00 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare  
09.25 Serial: Hank Zipzer  
10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil  
12.00 Le Journal  
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte  
15.34 D.Anime: Briko  
17.15 Mag: Human Nature  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
21.10 Film: California Solo  
23.10 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Ambarsariya  
Star: Diljit Dosanjh, Navneet  
Kaur Dhillon, Monica Gill  
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
11.05 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare  
12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
12.46 Serial: High School  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Film: Maine Pyar Kiya  
Stars: Salman Khan,  
Bhagyashree, Alok Nath  
17.56 Mag: DDI Mag  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki  
Rahasya Gatha  
20.30 Serial: Porus  
21.00 Film: Qayamat  
Starring: Ajay Devgn, Sunil Shetty,  
Sanjay Kapoor, Arbaaz Khan

06.00 Doc: Fast Fashion  
06.42 Mag: World Stories  
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies  
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx  
07.54 Doc: Expedition Yangtze  
10.14 Doc: Guardians Of Nature  
11.48 Mag: World Famous Writers  
12.30 Mag: Euromaxx  
12.59 Doc: Expedition Yangtze  
15.00 Student Support Prog...  
17.34 Mag: Euromaxx  
18.08 Prod: Mag De L'emploi Et...  
18.35 Mag: Happiness Is On The...  
19.00 Mag: Check In  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: World Heritage  
20.50 Doc: Hotels  
21.42 Doc: Skuld  
22.34 Doc: The Forest Rescuers  
23.15 Doc: Sweet Magic  
23.46 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
23.49 Mag: In Good Shape

01.31 Film: L'Enfant De La Tempete  
03.10 Serial: Powers  
03.53 Serial: L.A.'S Finest  
04.41 Serial: Reckoning  
05.26 Tele: Tanto Amor  
06.08 Serial: Zoo  
08.30 Serial: Killjoys  
09.10 Serial: L.A.'s Finest  
10.40 Film: L'Enfant De La Tempete  
12.15 Serial: Powers  
13.30 Serial: Blacklist  
14.26 Tele: Muneca Brava  
15.47 Serial: Zoo  
16.29 Film: La Dernière Tueuse...  
19.35 Serial: Mustangs FC  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Series: Zoo  
21.15 Film: Le Poids Des  
Mensonges  
Avec Sara Martins, Thierry  
Godard, Anne Suarez  
22.46 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

04.05 Radha Krishna  
04.36 Anupamaa  
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...  
05.43 Agnihera  
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
09.40 Motu Patlu  
10.07 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
11.55 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
14.00 Serial: Anupamaa  
15.46 Pavitra Rishta  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Film: Koi Mere Dil Mein Hai  
Star: Priyanshu Chatterjee, Dia  
Mirza  
20.30 Serial: Motu Patlu  
20.28 Serial: Namah  
21.03 Serial: Naagin Season 3  
21.44 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

dimanche 22 mai

06.00 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda  
07.00 Film: The Christmas Letter  
07.59 D.Anime: Akili And Me  
08.29 Serial: Les Copains  
10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil  
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
13.21 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte  
15.35 D.Anime: Briko  
15.49 D.Anime: Robot Trains  
17.15 Mag: Human Nature  
17.45 Local Prod: Rodrig  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani...  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.20 Local Production  
21.15 Film: Nocturnal Animals  
23.00 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Jiyo To Aise Jiyo  
11.03 Serial: Azhagu  
11.24 Jag Jaanani Maa  
Vaishnodevi  
11.45 Serial: Surya Pura  
12.06 Film: Army  
14.07 DDI Magazine  
15.20 Mooga Manasulu  
15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware  
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
Starring: Bharathi, Badekilla,  
Pradeep, Naresh Eswar...  
16.30 Local: Yaadein  
16.58 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Serial: Porus  
20.46 Serial: CID  
21.29 Serial: Naagin Season 2  
Starring: Mouni Roy,  
Karanvir Bohra...

06.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The...  
07.02 Mag: Salad Area  
07.28 Mag: Check In  
09.45 Doc: Skuld  
10.41 Doc: The Forest Rescuers  
11.25 Doc: Sweet Magic  
11.30 Mag: Happiness Is On The...  
11.59 Mag: In Good Shape  
12.31 Mag: The 77 Percent  
14.18 Doc: World Heritage  
14.23 Doc: Hotels  
15.15 Doc: Skuld  
15.41 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
18.35 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story  
20.01 Doc: Planet Home  
20.30 Live: News (English)  
20.50 Doc: Megastructure...  
21.43 Doc: La Route De La Soie  
22.50 Doc: Electricity To Go  
23.32 Doc: Sweet Magic

01.33 Film: Le Poids Des  
Mensonges  
03.03 Serial: Absentia  
03.53 Film: Salt  
05.47 Tele: Tanto Amor  
06.29 Serial: Zoo  
07.11 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery  
08.30 Serial: Killjoys  
09.11 Film: Le Poids Des  
Mensonges  
10.42 Film: La Dernière Tueuse...  
12.57 Serial: Absentia  
14.45 Serial: Blacklist  
15.52 Tele: Muneca Brava  
17.14 Serial: Zoo  
17.53 Serial: Absentia  
18.44 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque  
19.36 Serial: Mustangs FC  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Scorpion  
22.00 Film: Little Kingdom

00.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2  
01.46 Bhakharwadi  
04.23 Anupamaa  
06.00 Pavitra Rishta  
08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
10.03 Kundali Bhagya  
12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
13.57 Agnihera  
16.01 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
17.00 Punar Vivaah  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.03 Film: Dil Aashna Hai  
Starring: Jeetendra, Mithun  
Chakraborty, Dimple  
Kapadia  
20.48 Naagin Season 3  
21.13 Patiala Babes  
23.08 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
01.04 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
02.47 Kundali Bhagya  
04.35 Agnihera

lundi 23 mai

06.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil  
07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
07.55 Local: Music Tour 2022  
09.00 Doc: Opaque World  
10.15 Local: Fam Model  
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.34 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
13.15 Local: Nu Rasinn  
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte  
17.05 Serial: Backstage  
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Mere Sai  
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa  
Vaishnodevi  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.15 MBC Production  
21.10 Film: Salt  
Avec: Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber...

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Kundali Bhagya  
12.06 Film: Meri Adalat  
Starring Mithun Chakraborty,  
Suvana Mathew, Johnny  
Lever  
14.20 DDI Magazine  
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
15.42 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.24 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin  
16.42 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin  
17.57 Serial: The Demi-Gods...  
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.00 Programme In Telugu  
20.30 Film: Kanna Kanna  
Kollaiyadithaal  
Starring: Ritu verma,  
Rakshan, Niranjani Agathiyan

07.00 Mag: Salad Area  
07.58 Doc: Planet Home  
08.24 Doc: World Heritage  
10.30 Doc: Electricity To Go  
12.11 Mag: Salad Area  
13.18 Doc: Planet Home  
14.38 Doc: La Route De La Soie  
16.32 Doc: Sweet Magic  
18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.33 Mag: In Good Shape  
20.45 Doc: Castles  
20.48 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
21.41 Mag: Global 3000  
22.08 Mag: Washington Forum  
22.33 Doc: Opaque Worlds  
23.15 Doc: Megacity Mumbai  
23.57 Mag: Eco@Africa  
00.27 Mag: The 77 Percent  
00.49 Doc: Persons  
00.52 Mag: Africa

02.34 Film: 119 Jours  
04.38 Film: Little Kingdom  
06.09 Tele: Marimar  
06.35 Tele: Rubi  
06.51 Serial: Scorpion  
08.22 Film: 119 Jours  
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: Blacklist  
12.00 Film: Little Kingdom  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
13.54 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: 119 Jours  
16.47 Serial: Scorpion  
18.11 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.39 Serial: Mustangs FC  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Chicago PD  
21.15 Film: Grance And Goliath  
22.45 Tele: Marimar

08.00 Taare Zameen Par  
11.59 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
12.29 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
12.59 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
13.30 / 22.00 - Agnihera  
14.01 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.27 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.21 Film: Himmat  
Starring: Sunny Deol, Tabu,  
Shilpa Shetty  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.30 Radha Krishna





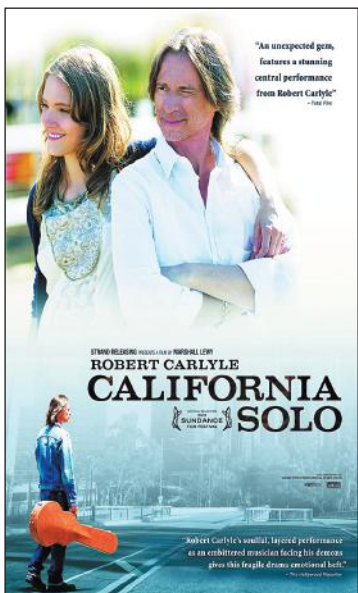
Mardi 24 mai - 21.10



Mercredi 25 mai - 21.15



Jeudi 26 mai - 21.15



# Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 24 mai

## MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig  
07.30 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
08.30 Local Prod: Rodrig Prog  
10.30 Mag: Art.21  
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...  
11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...  
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
13.15 Prod: Come On Lets Dance  
14.33 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis...  
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive  
15.34 D.Anime: Paf Le Chien  
17.05 Serial: Backstage  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
18.55 MBC Production  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
21.10 Film: Eaten By Lions  
Stars: Antonio Akeel, Jack Carroll, Asim

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: CID  
12.00 Film: Kathutli  
Starring: Jeetendra, Mumtaz  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.43 Bommarillu  
16.07 Sondha Bandham  
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin  
16.49 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin  
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And  
Semi-Devs  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme  
20.30 Film: Ambaa  
Star Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi  
Seshadri

## MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent  
07.55 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
09.17 Mag: Washington Forum  
10.25 Doc: Megacity Mumbai  
14.29 Mag: Washington Forum  
15.31 Doc: Megacity Mumbai  
16.17 Mag: Eco@Africa  
18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
18.30 Mag: Check In  
19.03 Student Support Prog...  
19.30 Doc: Persons  
20.30 Live: News  
20.45 Doc: Castles  
21.40 Mag: Euromaxx  
22.08 Mag: Close Up  
22.32 Local: Rodrig  
23.14 Mag: The Global Auto...  
23.40 Mag: Healthy Living  
23.55 Mag: Red Carpet  
00.10 Doc: Persons

## Cine 12

01.26 Film: Grace And Goliath  
02.56 Serial: Blacklist  
03.39 Film: Salt  
05.15 Tele: Marimar  
05.39 Tele: Rubi  
06.42 Film: Grace And Goliath  
09.00 Serial: Timeless  
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.01 Serial: Blacklist  
11.55 Film: Salt  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
13.54 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: Grace And Goliath  
16.41 Serial: Timeless  
17.20 Serial: Chicago PD  
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
21.15 Film: Capitaine Phillips  
Avec: Tom Hanks, Catherine Keener...

## Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Himmat  
Star Sunny Deol, Tabu, Shilpa  
Shetty  
11.32 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna  
11.59 / 20.57 - Anupamaa  
12.30 / 21.27 - Mere Sai  
13.09 / 22.07 - Agniphera  
13.30 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
13.56 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
14.53 / 22.25 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.28 Film: Teri Meherbaniyan  
Starring Brownie, Amrith Puri,  
Jackie Shroff, Poonam Dhillon  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
18.59 Udaariyaan  
19.30 Bhakharwadi  
20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2

mercredi 25 mai

07.15 Local: Profil  
07.30 Local: Priorite Sante  
08.09 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La  
09.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The...  
10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous Actre...  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
13.15 Local Production  
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive  
15.35 D.Anime: Paf Le Chien  
17.10 Serial: Backstage  
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
18.55 MBC Production  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.30 MBC Production  
21.25 Film: All Is True  
Starring: Kenneth Branagh, Judi  
Dench, Ian McKellen

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki  
12.00 Film: Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani  
Starring Mahesh Kothare and  
Nirupa Roy  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.49 Bommarillu  
16.07 Sondha Bandham  
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin  
16.49 Serial: Chhoti Bheem  
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.31 Serial: Kulvadh  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods...  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Programme In Marathi  
20.30 Film: Chatrapati Shashan  
Star: Santosh Juvekar, Makrand  
Deshpande, Kishore  
Kadam

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...  
06.26 Mag: Healthy Living  
06.41 Mag: Red Carpet  
08.46 Doc: Castles  
09.43 Mag: Euromaxx  
15.57 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion  
17.08 Mag: Healthy Living  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.35 Doc: Secret Des Plantes  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: Castles  
21.29 Les Montagnes Du Monde  
22.49 Mag: Focus On Europe  
23.47 Mag: Motorweek  
23.54 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
00.21 Doc: Persons  
00.24 Mag: Arts.21  
00.50 Mag: The Inside Story  
01.35 Doc: Secret Des Plantes  
02.29 Doc: Castles

00.52 Film: Capitaine Phillips  
03.38 Film: Eaten By Lions  
05.14 Tele: Marimar  
06.12 Serial: Chicago PD  
06.43 Film: Capitaine Phillips  
09.00 L'Agence Tous Risques  
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.01 Serial: Blacklist  
12.00 Film: Eaten By Lions  
13.40 Tele: Marimar  
14.29 Film: Capitaine Phillips  
16.42 L'Agence Tous Risques  
17.24 Serial: Chicago PD  
18.09 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.30 Serial: Mustangs FC  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue  
21.15 Film: L'Enfant De La Tempete  
23.18 Telenovela: Rubi  
23.42 L'Agence Tous Risques

07.00 Film: Teri Meherbaniyan  
11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna  
12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa  
12.30 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad..  
13.01 / 20.46 - Agniphera  
13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
13.51 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes  
14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
14.47 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.25 Film: Mehndi  
Starring Faraaz Khan, Rani  
Mukerji, Ushma Rathod  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.30 Radha Krishna

jeudi 26 mai

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
06.59 Local: Itinerer Moris  
07.45 Local: Rodrig Prog  
08.15 Local: Elle  
10.40 Mag: In Good Shape  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
13.15 Local: Music Tour 2022  
14.35 D.Anime: The Twisted  
Whiskers Show..  
15.35 D. Anime: Briko  
17.10 Serial: Backstage  
17.35 Mag: The World Is Yours  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
20.20 Film: Sadak 2  
Starring Sanjay Dutt, Alia Bhatt,  
Aditya Roy Kapur, Jisshu  
Sengupta, Pooja Bhatt

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki  
Rahasya Gatha  
11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...  
12.00 Film: Amrit  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.27 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin  
16.48 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin  
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...  
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da...  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
20.59 Local: Profil  
21.22 Film: California Solo  
With Robert Carlyle, Alexia  
Rasmussen, Kathleen Wilhoite

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
06.52 Doc: Persons  
08.14 Doc: Castles  
10.23 Mag: Focus On Europe  
12.01 Local: Vous Et Nous  
12.58 Mag: The Inside Story  
13.26 Doc: Secret Des Plantes  
15.05 Doc: Les Montagnes Du...  
16.25 Doc: Not Quite Green  
17.35 Mag: Eco India  
18.00 Mag: Shift  
19.00 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
19.30 Doc: Lost Edens  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.48 Doc: Goods To Paradise  
21.40 Doc: Snapshots  
22.49 Mag: Eco India  
23.15 Mag: Shift  
23.27 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
23.42 Doc: World Famous Writers

01.33 Film: All Is True  
03.09 Serial: Blacklist  
03.50 Film: L'Enfant De La Tempete  
05.26 Tele: Marimar  
05.48 Tele: Rubi  
06.52 Film: All Is True  
09.00 Serial: Timeless  
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: Blacklist  
11.55 Film: L'Enfant De La Tempete  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
14.45 Film: All Is True  
16.40 Serial: Timeless  
17.21 Serial: Rookie Blue  
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.36 Serial: Mustangs FC  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue  
21.15 Serial: Knight Rider

07.00 Film: Mehndi  
Starring Faraaz Khan, Rani  
Mukerji, Ushma Rathod  
11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa  
12.32 / 20.32 - Mere Sai  
13.01 / 21.09 - Agniphera  
13.35 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.05 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.30 Film: Saand Ki Aankh  
Star: Taapsee Pannu, Bhumi  
Pednekar, Prakash Jha,  
Viineet Kumar.  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.59 Udaariyaan  
19.29 Bhakharwadi



Jeudi 26 mai - 15.30

Stars: Taapsee Pannu, Bhumi  
Pednekar, Prakash Jha,  
Viineet Kumar



Jeudi 26 mai - 20.20

Star: Sanjay Dutt, Alia Bhatt, Aditya  
Roy Kapur, Jisshu Sengupta,  
Pooja Bhatt







Nita Chicooree-Mercier

That is all we needed, folks around the world must be thinking to themselves right now. After Covid-19's trail of millions of deaths, economic hardships, bankruptcy of multiple businesses, high unemployment, disruption in the supply chains, soaring prices of commodities and food, the US proxy war against Russia in Ukraine is likely to impact the basic food requirements of millions of people around the world.

It never rains, it pours - we are all familiar with this old saying. Misfortunes never come alone. It is generally accepted by the authorities and the nation that keeping the economy afloat will always be an uphill battle in Mauritius; but the island is blessed with frequent rainfalls that maintain the greenery around and keep the agricultural sector going. In two months' time, prices of tomatoes, aubergines, potatoes, ginger, garlic and other vegetables will be less of a strain on consumers' budgets.

In India, it is either too little or too much, a real land of extremes. After suffocating heat up to 46° in New Delhi, which sent common folks gasping for breath, thick clouds threaten to break into torrential rainfalls and flood towns and villages. Tons of water unleashed angrily and spiralling out of control are a familiar sight to locals, a prelude to the monsoon season. No good news as well in the north of Pakistan where the heat sky-rockets to 50°, and the land is predicted to be uninhabitable for human beings to survive in the decades ahead.

Figuratively, the old adage - it never rains, it pours - also means at this moment a deluge of sanctions falling on Russia. It leaves us wondering how many more sanctions the EU and the US have in store for Russia. Western countries never run short of ideas on how to isolate, weaken and finish off a country they perceive to be a threat to



India bans wheat export to ensure food security. Pic - Business Standard

« Russia was the world's top exporter of wheat in 2021, Ukraine ranked fifth. At an average price of \$255 a ton from Ukraine and Russia, the price of wheat has soared to \$400 in the US, and at a forbidding price of \$485 in France, which makes it hard for poorer nations to purchase from the two Western countries. Up to 90 million tons of wheat were consumed in India last year out of a total production of 109 million tons. While India has been the world's second-largest producer of the commodity, most of it is used domestically... »

their hegemony on the world stage.

#### Operation 2000. The Fall of Mariupol

Russia showers a string of bombings on the sprawling Azovstal factory complex where about 2000 Ukrainian soldiers are hiding away, many of whom are from the 'Nazi' Azov Battalion. The Ukrainian authorities and Western media have up to now lauded the bravery of the soldiers to resist to their last breath.

As I am writing these lines tonight, Tuesday 17th May, news of the surrender of the 2000 soldiers has been released. The identity of a first batch of 265 men is being checked. Contradictory information on the decision of the Kremlin is being issued. First, the safety of the soldiers is said to be guaranteed by President Putin. Then, Russian authorities are quoted as stating in blunt terms that Azov soldiers are "beasts disguised as humans", which seals their fate before any trial. At best, Ukraine will be relieved if there is an exchange of prisoners. A serious cause for concern is that the soldiers will apparently be taken to Russia for trial. Negotiations going on presently may determine whether the 'Nazi' battalion will be condemned to death or not.

Needless to add that journalists of mainstream Western media look disappointed at the fall of Mariupol into Russian hands. Western nations have

sent weapons, planes, drones, financial aid and men to Ukraine, and the forces have managed to sink two Russian warships. The surrender is therefore viewed as a defeat of the Western alliance with Ukraine against Russia though it is not going to be explicitly admitted in Western political and media sphere. For the past week Western media spokespersons have been hopefully anticipating a possible victory for Ukraine. With a sullen expression on their faces, they are lauding the humanism of President Zelensky for asking the army to surrender. The truth might be that the former comedian-turned-president is now feeling the heat from public opinion to put an end to the fighting.

What will Putin and his key aides decide? Since 2014, after the coup in Ukraine, 14,000 people were killed in the Russo-phone region of Donbas, 50 people were burnt alive, hospitals and schools were bombed, and one million refugees crossed over to Russia. Now among the Ukrainian soldiers who have surrendered, there are said to be American, British, and French soldiers. Negotiations are likely to be tough.

#### End of Special Military Operation and the Battle for Wheat?

On 14th March the Secretary General of the UN warned about the threat of a collapse of the world food system which will

impact millions of people. Six million tons of wheat are blocked in the Ukrainian ports of Odessa and Mariupol as access to the Black Sea is under Russian control. Out of its 41.5 million hectares of agricultural lands, Ukraine has lost 30% of the surface area since the conflict. Eritrea, Somalia, Tanzania, Mauritania, and Turkey are 100% dependent on either Ukrainian or Russian wheat.

Russia was the world's top exporter of wheat in 2021, Ukraine ranked fifth. At an average price of \$255 a ton from Ukraine and Russia, the price of wheat has soared to \$400 in the US, and at a forbidding price of \$485 in France, which makes it hard for poorer nations to purchase from the two Western countries. Up to 90 million tons of wheat were consumed in India last year out of a total production of 109 million tons. While India has been the world's second-largest producer of the commodity, most of it is used domestically. Its share in the global wheat exports has been only around 1%. High internal demand for wheat prompted India to ban its wheat export; Slovakia did the same, and Indonesia banned palm oil exports. Countries are prioritizing national interests first. Hence the scramble for wheat worldwide.

Finally, it all depends on whether the "special military operation", as defined by Putin for Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, will stop or not. Russia seems willing to halt the operation and invites Europe not to head towards political suicide by boycotting Russian oil. It can be a face-saving exit for all stakeholders. Will Europe listen? France promises more weapons to Ukraine. Overzealous to please its American mentor? Or is the bell tolling for US hegemony?



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## The Universe's Plan for You

Nothing happens in our lives, and in the world, without purpose

The path that speeds us toward our dreams can be a challenging and complex one, so it's easy to get bogged down in confusion and insecurities. We often hesitate at the start of that path, questioning our purpose or our capabilities. Yet we should be moving forward joyously, eager to discover what destiny has in store for us. The universe has plans for us that eclipse anything we have dreamed of thus far.

Though we must work diligently to fulfill our potential and to accomplish our individual missions, the universe is aware of both the quests we chose before birth and the goals we have formulated in adulthood. If we accept that it is watching over us and believe that it will facilitate our eventual success, the universe will provide us with the assistance and opportunities that enable us to make significant progress on our journeys of ambition.

Nothing happens without a purpose. Whether we attract success or repel it depends on our willingness to stay open to a wide range of possibilities and to embrace concepts like synchronicity. The universe is always ready to care for our needs, but we must not write off its loving attention as mere circumstance or chance. Likewise, we must endeavour to ensure that our egos do not become a barrier that prevents us from recognizing that even perceived mistakes and strife can be profound lessons that smooth the progress of personal evolution.

When we understand that we only need to enthusiastically try our best to realize our objectives, the universe will take care of the details, propelling us forward in its unstoppable current. We may not always immediately understand the significance of certain experiences, but our trust will help us choose wisely at each crossroads.

The universe wants to see you accomplish your goals. No matter how long you've dallied or hesitated, it will always be there to put its plan for you in motion at the first sign of your faith. You can make the most of this aid by acquiescing to it rather than fighting it -- nurture your dreams but do not attempt to micromanage every detail along the way. The universe will provide you with guidance and, if you heed that guidance, you will find your formerly stressful quest for success will become a journey of great joy.